



Weekly Digest

Issue 41

6 June 2005

Inside this issue:

- From the editor's desk 2
- ICA Board meeting 2
- International Finance Facility 2
- New members 4
- Singapore to host next General Assembly 4
- ICA Governance Group meets 5
- People 6
- Issues: taxation and disclosure 7
- Communications 8
- From the journals 9
- African educators 10
- Tsunami update 11
- Poverty campaign 12
- Other news 13
- 2005 Calendar-back cover 14

Editor: Garry Cronan
cronan@ica.coop
www.ica.coop

ICA meets in New Lanark - site of Robert Owen's pioneering co-operative village

The choice of New Lanark, Scotland for the latest ICA board meeting was no accident.

New Lanark has a special place in co-operative history. The village became internationally famous under the enlightened management of Robert Owen, the 18th century social and educational pioneer.

The board meeting was held in the restored Mill House now a hotel and

conference centre.

The whole New Lanark village is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is also increasingly becoming a site for international visitors interested in the history of co-operation.

This issue of the digest contains detailed reports on the board meeting. See also page 5 for the story of the restoration of this internationally significant co-operative site.



Robert Owen

ICA Director-General addresses UK Congress

ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald recently delivered the presidential address to the 136th UK Co-operative Congress.

Iain Macdonald had earlier been elected by the UK co-operative movement to be the congress president. He is not the first ICA Director-General to have that honour. He shares it with Henry May who was Secretary-General of the ICA from 1913-1939.

The theme of his address was *Co-operative Democracy: More Relevant than Ever*.

In a wide ranging and very well received address, Iain Macdonald outlined his own co-operative experience starting in Glasgow, Scotland and leading ultimately to the ICA in Geneva.

He highlighted the key role the ICA has played over its long history, championing the co-operative cause. He stated that co-operative values are now more important than ever in today's competitive global environment.

Copies of the Director-General's presentation can be obtained from the ICA or Co-operatives UK.



ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald addressing the recent UK Co-operative Congress

ICA poverty campaign links with GCAP world campaign

The ICA's Global Poverty Campaign is linking with the worldwide GCAP poverty initiative. ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald, said that "joining

our campaign to this much wider initiative will help position co-operative enterprise as a key solution to poverty throughout the world". See page 12 for details.



From the editor's desk



Welcome to the forty first issue of the Digest.

This week's digest has a strong UK focus. As our front page notes, the ICA board recently met in New Lanark, Scotland. Many board members also attended the 136th annual UK Co-operative Congress in Glasgow which followed the board meeting.

For its part, this year's UK

Congress had a strong ICA connection. This reflects the increasingly close relationship between the ICA and its UK members.

We are actively working with the UK co-operative movement as it increases its level of international activity. We report on a number of these joint initiatives, this week.

This issue also includes reports from our commu-

nications, governance, accounting standards, and sectors organisations.

Our *from the journal* series continues, plus reports on public policy developments in Australia, which may act as a cautionary tale for other countries. As usual we would welcome any of your comments.

Garry Cronan

cronan@ica.coop

ICA Board

"...remember if you wish to stand for election to the ICA board at the General Assembly you only have until 15 June to get your nomination in..."

Main decisions of board meeting

The recent two day board meeting in New Lanark, Scotland on 18/19 May 2005 was very productive. The board considered a number of matters, including

- Trends affecting co-operatives
- Tsunami reconstruction
- The global co-operative poverty campaign
- The forthcoming General Assembly
- Financial, development, membership, govern-

ance, elections and youth reports.

The board also approved a number of new members and had an extensive discussion on membership levies. It received detailed reports from the President and DG. The latter report, which was endorsed by the board,

included details of the GCAP campaign. It passed resolutions on peace as well as deciding on the venue for the 2007 General Assembly.

You will find details on all these items discussed elsewhere in this issue.



Board support for Israeli and Palestinian co-operators

ICA board members heard a report from ICA President, Ivano Barberini on his recent visit to Palestinian and Israeli co-operatives, see [Weekly Digest 40](#). To help support the peace and development initiatives of these co-operatives the President proposed and the board supported the following resolution, see *box opposite*.

ICA member Legacoop (Italy) has also been recently active in this area. Legacoop Lazio invited two representatives

from co-operatives in Palestine and Israeli to participate in their Assembly last December. Legacoop are also organising a conference, in July this year on the theme "Co-operative Enterprise, Europe and the Mediterranean Regions" at which, both of these representatives will again be guest speakers. In addition, Legacoop members after a recent mission to Palestine are evaluating the possibility of a fair trade project, focused on commercialising local Palestinian production and linking them

to the Italian consumer co-ops. For details, contact: Stefania Marccone, s.marcone@legacoop.coop

The ICA recognises the important role played in the Middle East peace process by Israeli and Palestinian co-operators. It reaffirms its support for this process and calls on all ICA members to demonstrate such support through trading agreements, twinning arrangements and other co-operative ventures.



Ivano Barberini, moved resolution in support of Middle East peace process

ICA Board

Key trends identified by board members

The recent ICA board meeting heard reports from members on key issues affecting co-operatives in their respective countries.

Reports were presented by board members from: Kenya, Italy, France, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Hungary, USA, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and India.

Although, there were obvious differences between countries, reflecting local and regional priorities, there were many similarities in the problems co-operatives were facing throughout the world.

The very nature of the co-operative way of operating seems to be increasingly under challenge.

Whether this is deliberate or merely a consequence of the domination of the investor driven model doesn't particularly matter. The reality is co-operatives are often on the defensive, trying to protect legislative and regulatory arrangements which recognise their distinctive character. The international accounting issue is but one example. Competition in the marketplace is also threatening the market share of long



established co-operatives.

The board felt that a closer analysis of these underlying trends would be beneficial. The proposed Global Co-operative CEO's Forum may provide an opportunity for discussion of these trends and the development of appropriate responses.

Photo shows, Dae-kun Chung, centre, delivering his report on the latest development in Korea. Also shown are Keun-Wou Lyu on left and Si-hyung Jo on right.

Board hears report on International Finance Facility

Peter Hunt, General Secretary of the UK's [Co-operative Party](#) addressed the ICA board meeting on the proposed International Finance Facility, (IFF).

The IFF initiative is being strongly supported by the UK Government.

Peter Hunt explained how the new facility

would work. Basically, the IFF would mean that governments borrow money and pay it back gradually to finance development in the same way they finance domestic investments.

Governments make commitments to pay a part of their aid budget into the facility for a period of around 15 years. The facility uses these commitments to borrow funds by selling bonds in international markets, to provide much more aid money now.

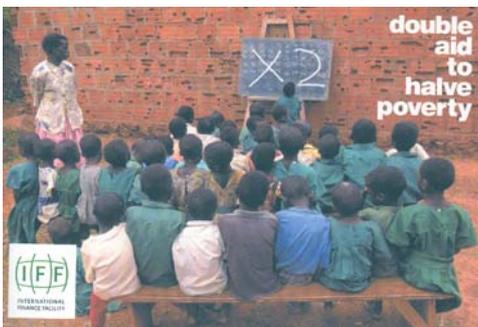
The funds are paid back gradually by the donor governments over the lifetime of



facility is to bring the benefit of the aid money forward to immediately address the problems of poverty. Mr Hunt asked ICA members to examine the benefits of such an approach.

Peter Hunt, outlining the advantages of the proposed IFF to the recent board meeting

“...we live in a world where 7 million people die from avoidable diseases every year, over 104 million children do not go to school and over 1 billion people live on less the one dollar a day...”



For more information please visit www.dfid.gov.uk

the facility.

In effect the idea behind the

ICA Board



Maria Elena ChavezHertig, ICA Deputy Director-General, chairs the ICA Membership Working Group looking at a possible new membership subscription formula

ICA now has 220 members organisations (214 members and 6 associate members) from 88 countries.

ICA welcomes two new members

The National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) of India was admitted as an associate member by the Board in September 2004 and officially became a member in early June.



NCDC is an organisation that promotes and finances various post-harvest and agro-allied activities through co-operatives in India. It provides loans and a wide variety of technical assistance and delivers co-operative training. NCDC has provided total development assistance to co-operatives since its establishment of approximately CHF 1,937,150,211. NCDC is also a founder member of the Network for Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia (NEDAC) and Centre for International Co-operation for Training in Agriculture Banking (CICTAB).

National Institute of Co-operative Development of Sri Lanka became an ICA member in March 2005. The Institute offers education and training using new technology providing services to 10,000 co-operative societies. The Institute is an active member of the ICA Asia-Pacific HRD and Research Committees.



The ICA Board gave favourable consideration to five applications for membership at its recent meeting in New Lanark. The following organisations have been invited to join the ICA:

- Instituto de Desarrollo y Crédito Cooperativo (IDECOOP), Dominican Republic
- Mollah Al-Movahedin Credit Co-operative, Iran
- Oikocredit, Netherlands
- CUNA Mutual Group, USA
- Land O'Lakes, USA

Singapore to host 2007 ICA General Assembly



Seah Kian Peng, Chairman, SNCF presenting his proposal to the ICA board

The recent ICA board meeting accepted a proposal from the Singaporean National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) to host the 2007 ICA's General Assembly. In a very professional presentation, Seah Kian Peng, SNCF's, chair outlined how his organisation would go

about hosting this important global event. The board members were delighted and congratulated SNCF on their bid proposal. SNCF has already commenced planning for the event. www.snfc.coop/



Next board meeting - just before the General Assembly

The next meeting of the ICA board will be held in Cartagena on 18-19 September 2005. This will be just prior to the General Assembly.

That meeting will be the last for the present board, which was elected at the Seoul, General Assembly in 2001. Several members from the present board are retiring

while a number are standing for re-election at the Cartagena Assembly. Nominations for the board close 15 June 2005.

ICA governance working party moving ahead

Governance

The ICA's new Governance Working Party met in Glasgow following the ICA board meeting.

The meeting identified the key areas where it will be making recommendations for improvement to the governance mechanisms and structures of the ICA.

The Governance Working Group has asked four of its members, Gun-Britt Mårtensson, Mervyn Wilson, Bruno Roelants and Garry Cronan to work

on a series of draft proposals which will be presented to the forthcoming General Assembly in Cartenga in September this year.

The working group will be consulting and seeking the input of a range of ICA representatives, not least the ICA board itself, in the development of its proposals for change.

For more information please contact the group's coordinator Garry Cronan, cronan@ica.coop

ICA Governance Working Party, chair, Gun-Britt Mårtensson, (Sweden)



A future issue of the **Digest** will include a detailed report on corporate governance developments among our members

Election Committee opts for more participation

The recent board meeting also considered the proposals for the Election Committee to ensure that all ICA members can participate in nominations and participation to the General

Assembly. The Board agreed that members who have received special consideration by the Board in the delay or exemption of payments will have the right to both nominate candidates for the Board

and other elected positions, and will have one vote if they attend the General Assembly. Members in these categories have been advised of this special decision. Contact: Maria Elena ChavezHertig chavez@ica.coop

"...There is but one mode by which man can possess in perpetuity all the happiness which his nature is capable of enjoying – that is by the union and co-operation of all for the benefit of each

Robert Owen

New Lanark - spiritual home of co-operation



Photo shows, Pauline Green holding a photo of the mill before the extensive restoration led by long time co-operator, Jim Arnold pictured on the left. Fellow board members Dr Siso-dia and Rahaiah Binti Baهران look on.

One of fascinating things about New Lanark is that it has been a working village since the days of Robert Owen and his father-in-law David Dale, who began the cotton mills in the late 18th century. The mills closed in 1968 and from then

on various attempts were made to secure funding to preserve the buildings which were beginning to fall into disrepair. It was not until the early 1980s however that real resources were forthcoming from the UK government. The appointment of Jim Arnold as village manager in 1974 had begun the process leading to what we see today. Jim's commitment as a socialist and co-operator (he is still on the area committee of the Scottish Co-op) and his determination to preserve the unique industrial heritage of New Lanark culminated in its recognition as a world Heritage site.

People



Canada: new executive director for CCA

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) has announced the appointment of Carol Hunter as Executive Director. Ms. Hunter commenced her new role on 1 June 2005.

Carol was most recently CCA's Director of Member Services. She brings 16 years of experience with CCA to the position

as well as a long-standing commitment and loyalty to the Association and the co-operative movement.

Ms. Hunter is well known in the co-operative community for her service excellence and responsiveness, a strong focus on strategy execution and content and a passion for all things co-operative.

"With Ms. Hunter, we have a winning combination of someone who is passionate in promoting, co-operatives, as well as someone who has a demonstrated track-record in strategy implementation and relationship-building with key stakeholders and partners," says Dave Sitaram, CCA President.

International: new CEO for WOCCU



The World Council of Credit Unions, Inc. (WOCCU) has announced the appointment of credit union pioneer Pete Crear, former Credit Union National Association (CUNA) executive vice president and chief operating officer, as its new chief executive officer.

Pete will begin his new post in Madison, Wisconsin, WOCCU's headquarters, on 20 June

2005.

As CUNA's former chief operating officer, Pete oversaw the daily operations of CUNA & Affiliates' offices which provide education and training, publications and web services, research, new product development, and other services for state leagues and credit unions.

He was also responsible for credit union development, including the Development

Educators Programme and the National Credit Union Foundation. Most recently, he was CUNA's executive vice president of external relations.

Other accomplishments include organising numerous credit unions serving the urban poor, founding the African-American Credit Union Coalition, and championing a credit union/financial education partnership that has reached over 1,000

International: new CEO for ICMIF



Jean-Louis Bancel, chairman of ICMIF, has announced that Shaun Tarbuck, the current CFO will take over from Hans Dahlberg as chief executive of the International Co-operative and Mutual Federation (ICMIF) effective from 1 July 2005.

Jean-Louis commented that "Shaun has a vast experience in the insurance industry both in the commercial world and the co-operative and mutual sector. His ten years experience with ICMIF means that he is well

known to all the ICMIF members and also on the international insurance stage. His financial background makes it easy for him to relate to the membership's chief executives and to understand their challenges. In Shaun we have a capable, professional insurance expert well versed in global issues and his ICMIF experience will make the transition appear seamless to the membership."

Jean-Louis stated that the first task for Shaun would be to complete a five-year

strategic review of ICMIF and its services which will be presented to members at the conference in Singapore in November.

Shaun stated he was delighted to be appointed chief executive of ICMIF and paid tribute to Hans Dahlberg. He said "Hans' leadership and vision has been influential in bringing about the success of ICMIF." Commenting on his appointment as chief executive he said "I am really looking forward to the challenge of being chief executive."

Australian government acts to restore “principle of mutuality”

Australia has been notable in recent years for being at the forefront of extensive policy and legal changes which have, intentionally or otherwise, threatened the co-operative form. The most recent issue concerns the taxation “principle of mutuality”.

The Australian High Court dismissed Coleambally Irrigation Mutual Co-operative Ltd (CIMCL) application to be heard in relation to its case with the Australian Tax Office.

The decision effectively prevents CIMCIL from

replying on the long standing principle of mutuality to claim tax exempt status for members contributions to a sinking fund, due to the characterisation of winding up provisions of its constitution. This provision is a requirement of state legislation and also the tax office!

The national government has decided to amend the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 to provide that the mutuality principle may apply to affected not-for-profit organisations even though the organisation is precluded from

distributing to members on winding up. On winding up, any surplus would be required to be distributed to another not-for-profit organisation. The Tax Office estimates that around 200,000 to 300,000 organisations would potentially have become subject to tax on receipts that the Tax Office had previously considered to be excluded from assessable income under the mutuality principle.

Once again one observes separate parts of government applying differing views to co-operative organisations.

Issues:
taxation,
&
disclosure



How public should member lists be?

Australia also provides us with another example of how public policy can challenge co-operatives.

This time it concerns the public availability of member lists in mutual and co-operative organisations. The main national business paper the *Financial Review* recently carried a report on this issue. See <http://afr.com/>

“The Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies is objecting to a plan to make member registers accessible to rivals, as it lodges a formal submission with the securities regulator. Industry participants recently stepped up their warnings that the proposal might ultimately lead to

the disappearance of the mutual sector.

Mutual or not-for-profit financial institutions such as building societies and credit unions are fighting a plan by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission that will allow greater access to their member registers.

The mutuals fear the proposal would increase the threat of takeovers and impinge on the privacy of members. Members of credit unions and building societies are also their customers, meaning that access to a member registry gives a rival details of the institution's customer base.

“It has huge implications for building societies,” the executive director of the AAPBS, Raj Venga, said. “Our view is that we don't

fit in well with the Corporations Act..”

The issue was raised after the regulator allowed Mackay Permanent Building Society access to the Capricornia Credit Union members register. Mackay is seeking to take over Capricornia, which will involve its demutualisation. Capricornia, however, is challenging ASIC. The industry body, the Credit Union Services Corporation, is also formulating a submission to the regulator.

“Owners of mutuals have a right to expect the regulator to act to protect their interests, rather than paving the way for takeover offers without appropriate disclosure and protection,” its spokeswoman Louise Pet-schler said.

“..the Australian experience can be instructive. Many of the key public policy challenges to co-operatives seem to become evident first in Australia...”

Communications

“...the new internet technologies are perfectly suited to spreading the co-operative message.”

Graham Mitchell

ICA Communications Committee meets in Scotland

The Communications Committee is one of the ICA's four global thematic committees. It met again in Glasgow on 19 May 2005, just prior to the UK Co-operative Congress.

The main topic of discussion was a work programme for the committee.

The ICACC was given a preview of the ICA's new global website, which is shortly to be launched. The development of an integrated online strategy for the ICA has been identified

by the committee as one of the main communication priorities for the ICA. In this regard committee member Graham Mitchell (Co-operatives UK) has suggested a range of new internet technologies which seem ideally suited to communicating the co-operative message to a whole new generation.

The committee also discussed the best messages to communicate. Which co-operative messages work, and which don't. We should try and learn from each other in this regard and share the lessons of our communications activities.



Graham Mitchell, Co-operatives UK, working with the ICA to further develop its online resources

UK co-operators provide input into communications strategy



Caroline Naett, chair and Garry Cronan, secretary of the ICACC at the recent Communications Forum in the UK

conjunction with the UK's Co-operative Congress.

The forum provided an opportunity for UK co-operators to have input into the development of the ICA's new global communications strat-

egy. The ICACC is assisting in the development of this strategy.

Representatives from a

range of UK co-operatives, including consumer and worker co-op sectors attended the forum and provided comments and ideas for the new strategy.

The forum also heard a presentation from Paul Hazen, NCBA on what communications strategies and messages were working with USA audiences.

“...the ICACC will feature a collection of the best co-operative ads at this year's General Assembly ...”

Co-operatives need to take their message to the mainstream media.

One of the best ways of doing this is through television advertising. Although expensive, it can be very effective at creating awareness.

Do you know of any TV ads featuring co-ops?

Paul Hazen, NCBA, took the opportunity of the recent Communications Forum to present several examples of successful TV ads. The ICACC would like to build on this and is asking all members to kindly send copies of any ads they might have to ICA head office.



Paul Hazen, NCBA's CEO

From the journals

This week we continue our new series by looking at three more publications. The three featured below are all available in English and Spanish, with the ICMIF publication also being produced in French and Japanese. All are good sources of information on issues affecting co-operatives, mutuals and credit unions. They are well worth a look!

International: WOCCU

Credit Union World is a quarterly journal featuring the latest news on Credit Unions from around the world. It is produced by the World Council of Credit Unions, (WOCCU).

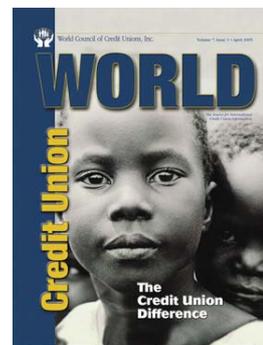
The lead item in the latest issue is on highlighting the credit union difference around the world. It notes that “credit union development work is the lifeblood of WOCCU”.

The credit union difference is highlighted in reports on tsunami reconstruction from Sri Lanka, and on development work in Afghanistan.

A continuing theme running through recent issues of *Credit Union World* has been improving governance. The latest issue remarks that Sherron Watkins, the former vice president for corporate development at Enron, will be a keynote

speaker at 2005 World Credit Union Conference in Rome in July. Ms Watkins is the world famous Enron whistle-blower who predicted the hidden “improper—possibly illegal partnerships” at Enron.

Other topics covered in recent issues include, differentiating Credit Unions in today's marketplace, and sharing support services internationally. See www.woccu.org



WOCCU is an international member

Spain: Fundación Espriu

Compartir is a 50 page quarterly publication featuring the very latest news on health co-operatives, in Spain and internationally. It is produced by Fundación Espriu.

For anyone interested in the role of co-operatives in the health care system this is an inspiring read.

Some of the items covered in the latest issue include, health related topics, on leukemia, and the fight against sedentary diseases.

On the co-operative front, articles include reflections on twenty years of health co-operativism; a benchmark hospital at the service of health co-operativism; and the unique co-operative experience of 16,000 member

doctors.

It also includes reports on ICA both globally, and at the European level, plus recent health co-operative conferences.

Its breadth of coverage is demonstrated by the inclusion of poetry, and photo journalism items. See www.fundacionespriu.coop



Fundación Espriu is one of ICA's seven Spanish members

International: ICMIF

ICMIF World is an 18 page quarterly produced by the International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF).

The latest issue, No 52 features a wide range of items including a detailed report on the tsunami and how ICMIF and its members are working with SANASA in Sri Lanka to assist the reconstruction. The issue also includes

items on *how to make a success of micro-insurance and livestock insurance: vital, high-tech and growing.*

An area of increasing interest to ICMIF is *takaful* or Islamic insurance. The latest issue of *ICMIF World* notes that the *takaful* sector has been growing rapidly over the last ten years. *Takaful* is part of a broader ICMIF strategy to develop the co-operative and mu-

tual insurance sector in the Middle-East and North Africa.

The journal regularly carries reports from all of its regions throughout the world and on other developments, including, corporate governance, public policy and regulatory changes affecting the insurance sector.

See www.icmif.org for more information



ICMIF is one of ICA's nine global sectoral organisations

Education

Photo shows from left to right Kenneth Okiror Charles, of Uganda; Modukanele Modukanele, of Botswana; Esther Gicheru, of Kenya; Gareth Thomas, MP, Chair of the UK Co-operative Party and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for International Development; Thembilehel Khanyile of Swaziland and Suleman Chambo of Tanzania

“...The visit of the African principals will help advance a number of the current UK initiatives in Africa...”

African co-operative educators address UK Congress



With support from the UK Department for International Development, five principals from co-operative colleges in Africa recently visited the UK. The principals - from Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Swaziland - were guests at the Co-operative Congress in Glasgow. Here they attended plenary sessions and met delegates from the different co-operative sectors such as housing and football. In a special Congress workshop ‘Making a Difference’, conference delegates were able to hear about the work of the co-operative colleges and the situation in East and South-

ern Africa.

Following the visit to Congress, the principals paid a visit to New Lanark before spending a few days in Manchester.

While in Manchester, a visit to the Toad Lane museum proved a highlight as did a visit to Co-operative archives now housed at the College. There was also opportunity for discussion about the possibilities of future work together with the growing partnerships to be formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding in the near future. Officials from the Department of International Development

were able to meet with the principals. The DFID minister, Gareth Thomas, made time out of his busy conference schedule to spend some time with them.

The visit of the African principals will help advance a number of the current UK initiatives in Africa. 2005 has already seen the report of the Commission for Africa, a UK initiative to garner support for more and better aid for the continent. In July, when the G-8 meet in the UK, huge numbers of people will try to persuade world leaders to make Poverty History.

Sectors



ICA Housing Chair
Mike Doyle (CHF)

ICA Housing Board meets

The ICA Housing Board of Director’s meeting took place on 17 May 2005 in London, UK. The meeting was attended by nine of the fourteen board members with apologies for absence from five.

It took place at the National Housing Federation and its Director of Membership Ms. Arvinda Gohil gave a welcome address.

A wide variety of topics were discussed by the board such as governance, finances, and agreements

between ICA and ICA Housing, logistical planning and future goals and plans of ICA Housing.

Of the notable decisions made; ICA Housing adopted a compass document, reviewed a budget for the committee’s work, and adopted revised rules for recommendation to the next plenary meeting in Cartagena. Also, the Board approved the proposals for ICA Officers and Board member elections in Cartagena in September 2005. In addition, the Board agreed to consider having a more

formal cooperation between UNECE CHS HUMAN and ICA Housing. Finally, the ICA Housing website was discussed and was agreed that it should be completed as soon as possible and it will have the input of all ICA Housing members available on the website.

Finally, the next meeting will be Sunday 18 September 2005, to be followed by the ICA Housing Plenary meeting at a location to be confirmed in Cartagena; Colombia.

SANASA donor consortium

The SANASA Network, of Sri Lanka, which is a member of the ICA, conducted a Consortium of International Partners in Colombo from 19-21 May, 2005.

Following their successful relief and recovery efforts, SANASA renewed its efforts to discuss and develop its post-Tsunami Revival and long term reconstruction programme.

Co-operative organisations such as the ICA, WOCCU, ACCU, Rabobank, the Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA), Développement International Desjardins (DID), NTUC Income of Singapore were all represented, and many other donors such as GTZ, Trickle Up, etc., as well as National and International NGOs were also present.

SANASA was one of the first organizations working in the Tsunami affected areas. 380 SANASA primary societies were affected, with approximately 70,000 members. 38% had their society buildings completely destroyed; an additional 54% suffered some damage. Records were lost, many staff members were killed. SANASA and its members have already started rebuilding these societies. An Assessment was carried out by the ICA and the Israeli Co-operative Movement in February 2005, which included SANASA and other co-operatives in Sri Lanka.

What is important to note is that SANASA, in rebuilding the Tsunami-affected co-operatives, is also supporting the local communities. Dr P.A. Kiriwan-

deniya, leader of the SANASA movement, said that "SANASA is committed to supporting communities across the country. We are not just providing relief, but we are making every effort to build strong, self-reliant, co-operative communities."

The partner consortium visited some of SANASA's post-Tsunami rebuilding projects and they endorsed SANASA's approach. Consortium members offered not just funding but also technical support to develop the program and expand it to more areas as a way to rebuilding the SANASA Co-operative movement as a whole.

SANASA aims to develop 41 'work-camps' across the affected coastal areas in the South and East of the country, as centers for community development. 6 Work-camps are already open. CCA, Rabobank and DID will support up to 10 more work camps. Work-camps coordinate the rebuilding of primary societies, house reconstruction, enterprise support and credit programs as well as social assistance. SANASA's contacts within the community focus these programs on the most immediate need.

The Consortium agreed to focus their resources in one area initially and to coordinate its program. This also fits with one of the recommendations being proposed following the ICA assessment in February 2005. Frank Bakx of Rabobank, the

Tsunami Update



Photo shows participants at the SANASA donor consortium, including Robby Tulus, Angus Poston and Dr. P.A. Kiriwan-deniya

largest contributor to SANASA's post-Tsunami program to date, said "strong coordination, both locally and internationally, is vital to re-build societies that have been torn apart by the tragedy of the Tsunami". The Consortium also agreed the need to identify more funds.

Participants urged SANASA to plan for the long-term. Normunds Mizis of WOCCU, said "Let's not only think about how to re-build SANASA, let's also think about how we can make it better to become a driving force in Sri Lanka's reconstruction and development".

"...We are not just providing relief, but we are making every effort to build strong, self-reliant, co-operative communities..."

Dr P.A. Kiriwan-deniya, leader of SANASA

Pilot Project Proposal

The ICA in conjunction with the Institute of Co-operative Development Studies (LSP2 Indonesia), Jakarta, the Centre for Development Studies, Agricultural University, Bogor (IPB), and Dekopinwil of NAD Province has finalised a pilot project which will identify and recommend at least 6 Pilot/Model Co-operatives in two Districts that are capable of showing the way towards effective rehabilitation and reconstruction of the co-operative activities in the Fisheries, Distribution and Agricultural sectors in the Tsunami-ravaged areas in Aceh. For more information contact our Tsunami co-ordinator, Gabriella Sozanski, sozanski@ica.coop

COOPERATING
OUT
OF
POVERTY



ICA joins Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty was formally launched in Porto Alegre at the World Social Forum on 26 January 2005.

Since then thousands of organisations and individuals across the globe have signed up to GCAP. Its objective is to force

world leaders to live up to their promises, and to make a breakthrough on poverty in 2005.

The goals of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty and the various proposed days of citizen mobilization planned for 2005 can be found at www.whiteband.org.

campaigns are part of the Global Call.

The ICA is currently exploring the possibility of formally joining GCAP global coordination group.

A number of ICA members are already part of these national campaigns. The ICA would encourage other members to do likewise. Contact Jan-Eirik Imbsen, imb-sen@ica.coop

"The Global Campaign for Action Against Poverty can take its place as a public movement alongside the movement to abolish slavery and the international solidarity against apartheid."
Nelson Mandela, Trafalgar Square, February 3, 2005

There are already almost 60 countries across the world where national cam-

UK co-op college - working with ICA and ILO



UK Co-operative College principal, Mervyn Wilson, on right with Professor Ian MacPherson and Professor Stephen Yeo. Professor's MacPherson and Yeo were the joint authors of a recent Co-op College publication *Pioneers of Co-operation*

The UK Co-operative College has been working increasingly of late with the ICA and the ILO.

The college has in recent years embarked on an ambitious and wide-ranging programme to increase the role it plays in international and UK co-operation.

A number of joint ICA/ILO and college publications have been produced.

It is also working very actively with DFID, the UK government department responsible for international development.

Through the Strategic Grants Agreement with DFID it has been able to undertake co-operative development work which not only directly assists UK and African co-operatives, but through their association with the ICA and the ILO the whole international movement.

The college also runs an extensive series of education and training courses. The range and extent of its activities was recently on display at the UK Co-op Congress, where it ran many of the workshops. For more information contact Mervyn@co-op.ac.uk or visit their website www.co-op.ac.uk/

ILO research into co-operative facility for Africa

A 12 month preparatory project on a co-operative facility for Africa has been prepared by the ILO Co-operative Branch with the assistance of the UK Department of International Development (DFID).

The purpose is to assist African and international co-operative movements explore the possibilities of devising a medium to long

term funding and technical assistance mechanism for coordinating, strengthening and scaling up their actions.

Four complimentary actions are proposed, poverty reduction, boosting employment, improving representation and organising social protection.

The first phase of the research is designed to

produce fact-based evidence of the role co-operatives can play in the four action areas.

Fifteen countries will be surveyed with ten detailed case studies being prepared on: Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. For more information contact: Jürgen Schwettmann, schwettmann@ilo.org



Jürgen Schwettmann, ILO Co-op Branch head, working closely with the ICA and its many partners

Recent books, publications on co-ops and poverty reduction

A number of titles have recently been published which demonstrate how co-ops help in poverty reduction. The publications have been produced by the UK Co-op College, the ILO and the ICA, often in partnership and as part of the global campaign against poverty.

They include:

- *Co-operating out of Poverty*, Joint ILO/ICA publication.
- *Making a Difference - Co-operative solutions to global poverty*, Andrew Bibby and Linda Shaw, UK Co-operative College
- *Rediscovering the Co-operative Advantage*, Johnston Birchall, ILO
- *Co-operatives and the Millennium Development Goals*, Johnston Birchall, Joint ILO/COPAC publication

Contact the ICA, ILO or the Co-operative College for copies.

ICA's accounting standards group meets

The new ICA IASB Working Group meet in Glasgow on 20 May 2005 for the first time.

The group has identified its priorities areas which include preparing a draft ICA discussion paper on IAS 32.

In drafting the discussion paper the group will draw on the experiences of its members and other co-operative organisations to

summarise how the IAS32 has affected co-operatives throughout the world.

A draft of the paper is expected to be circulated to all ICA members in July and after taking account of these and other comments finalised in time for the next ICA board meeting in September.

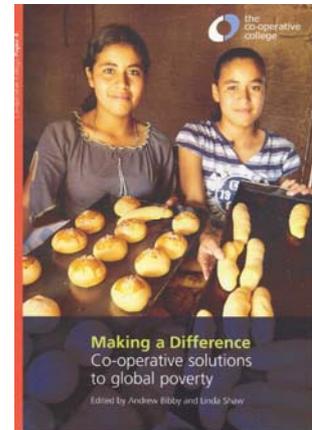
Ultimately, this paper will be presented to the International Accounting Stan-

dards Board, (IASB). It will make very clear to the IASB the collective view of the international movement on this very important issue.

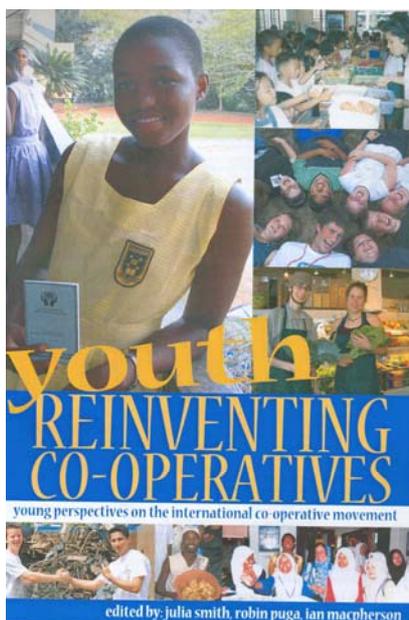
Contact: jean-claude.detilleux@coopant.coop

Jean-Claude Detilleux, chair of the IASB Working Group

Other News



Youth title published



An exciting new book on youth and co-operatives has just been published.

The book, *Youth, reinventing co-operatives*, has been edited and produced by the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies in association with the ICA, ILO and CCA.

The book explores the ways in which youth think about and use co-

operatives to meet their economic and social needs. It features reflections by young people (and a few recalling more youthful days) considering what co-operatives mean for them and could mean for others.

It provides over forty case studies on co-operatives in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America in which young people play important roles; in many instances operating co-operatives. The book also includes a series of recommendations about how young people can use co-ops to help shape their world.

You can order your copy of the new youth book online at: <http://bcics.uvic.ca/youthzone>

INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATIVE
ALLIANCE

ICA
15 Route des Morillons
1218 Grand Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 929 8888
Fax +41 22 798 4122

www.ica.coop

*Remember the
Weekly Digest
Index is now
available at
www.ica.coop*

Copies of the
Weekly Digest are
archived on the
ICA's website
www.ica.coop

Back Page - Calendar of ICA Events and Activities

- 21-22 June** ACME Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal. Contact Yvonne Hautenne yvonne@icmif.org
- 28 June** *Co-operatives in Europe* Convention in Brussels. Contact: Rainer Schlüter, rsc@cecop.coop
- 2 July** 2005 International Day of Co-operatives. Contact: Maria Elena Chávez Hertig chavez@ica.coop see www.copacgva.coop
- 24-27 July** WOCCU, 2005 World Credit Union Conference, Rome, Italy. See www.woccu.org/
- 11-12 August** ICA Global Research Conference, Cork, Ireland Contact: Olive McCarthy, o.mccarthy@ucc.ie see www.ucc.ie/acad/foodecon/CCS/ICA/index.htm
- 8-9 Sept** ICA African Ministerial Conference, Lesotho. Contact: A.S. Kibora, Regional Director, ICA Africa, skibora@icaroecsa.coop
- 18-21 Sept** ICA board, sectoral, thematic, youth and other pre-General Assembly meetings. Cartagena, Colombia See page 10 for details
- 22-23 Sept** ICA General Assembly, plus related sectoral and thematic committee meetings. Cartagena, Colombia. Contact: Gabriella Sozánski, sozanski@ica.coop see www.ica.coop or www.ica-cartagena.coop
- 10-21 Oct** ILO Course on Co-operative Policy and Legislation, Turin, Italy. (This course will be offered in French) Contact: Jürgen Schwettmann, schwettmann@ilo.org
- 15-18 Nov** ICMIF Conference, Singapore. See www.icmif.org/

Long time Italian co-operator passes away

ICA's representative to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Lino Visani, passed away on 5 June in Rome, Italy.

He worked with Legacoop (Italy) from 1956 to 1982 where he held a number of important positions including the President of Legacoop's National Association of Agricultural Co-operatives, head of the International Department of Legacoop, and the Presidency of Legacoop.

From 1982 to 1985 he was President of Inforcoop, the national co-operative training institute. Shortly after, Mr. Visani was appointed ICA's representative to FAO. He ensured ICA's representation at many of

Lino Visani



FAO's meetings, met with FAO officials and worked closely with the Head Office to ensure that the voice of ICA and the co-operative movement was heard at FAO.

ICA joins Legacoop and all who knew Lino in expressing its sincere condolences to the Visani Family.