



ICA Digest

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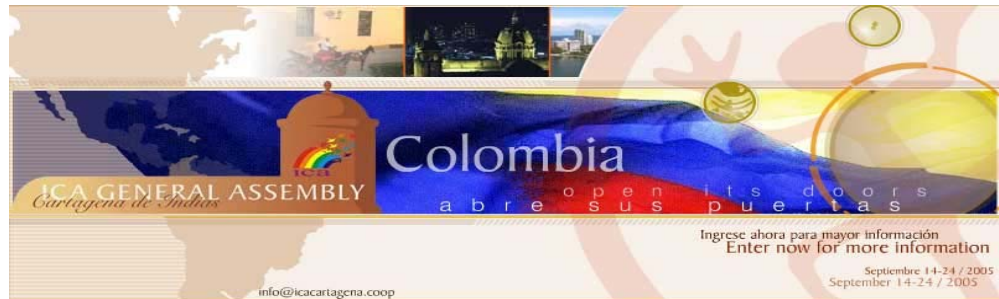
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General Assembly special edition



Enron whistleblower to address ICA General Assembly

Sherron Watkins is one of the keynote speakers at the forthcoming ICA General Assembly.

Ms Watkins is the former Vice President of Enron Corporation, who alerted the then CEO in August 2001 to accounting irregularities within the company, warning him that Enron "might implode in a wave of accounting scandals."

TIME magazine named her as one of their 2002 Persons of the Year, for being someone "who did right just by doing their jobs right."

Now an independent speaker, she is co-author of *Power Failure, the Inside Story of the Collapse of Enron*, (Doubleday, 2003).

Ms Watkins' theme of ethics, business responsibility and good corporate governance fits neatly into the overall theme of the General Assembly, which is focused on showing how co-operative values can help drive co-operative business success.



Sherron Watkins

More than 1400 expected to attend

The 2005 ICA General Assembly is on track to be the largest ever. Well over 1400 delegates and observers from almost 70 countries are expected to attend.

It is also the first ever General Assembly in South America. As a result a large number of South American delegates are taking the opportunity to

attend, along with the many hundreds of European, Asia-Pacific, African and North American participants.

As you will read in this issue of the *Digest* there are a wide range of meetings and other activities planned to keep all these delegates very busy.

Over 16 pages detailing the 2005 General Assembly and related events



Garry Cronan
Editor

From the editor's desk

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

This is our first issue after the *Digest's* "summer break". Our next issue returns to our slimmer more regular format.

This issue is devoted entirely to our forthcoming General Assembly. This week of events, commencing Sunday 18 September, is being held in Cartagena, Colombia.

General Assemblies are important events for the ICA. They showcase the international movement

and provide an opportunity for members to exercise democratic control over the affairs of the ICA.

Apart from the General Assembly itself, there are many supporting statutory, thematic, sectoral and special interest events planned.

The task of hosting a General Assembly is a major undertaking. It requires many months of detailed planning and organisation, by both the ICA and the host organisations.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Colombian colleagues for

the outstanding effort they have made in making this one of the most exciting and interesting General Assemblies.

We hope, for those of you unable to attend, this issue will help enable you to follow-up on the wealth of information and ideas presented. We intend to have the presentations on our new website shortly after the General Assembly.

Garry Cronan

cronan@ica.coop

Theme Co-operative Values: A Competitive Asset in a Globalised Economy

The theme of the General Assembly was selected to highlight how co-operative values can be a competitive asset.

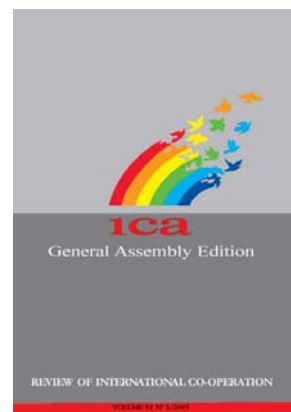
The General Assembly along with the supporting programme of seminars will

all be highlighting that co-operatives can be very successful in today's globalised economy.

The size and breadth of co-operative success is little appreciated, even within the movement. It is time to celebrate our success and to more widely promote our co-operative difference.



Hilton Hotel in Cartagena, Colombia the venue for most of the events



See ICA Review Vol 98 2/2005 for background papers on the General Assembly

Meet the General Assembly organisers

The organisation of an event like an ICA General Assembly involves an immense amount of work.

While many people assist in this undertaking two individuals have led the process. Gabriella Sozanski at the global level and Fabian Muñoz for the Colombian hosts. We would like to acknowledge their hard work.



Gabriella Sozanski



Fabian Muñoz

Visit our website for more GA information

www.ica.coop

Colombian movement welcomes the co-operative world

ICA Vice President, Americas, and President of Saludcoop, Carlos Palacino is committed to making the 2005 General Assembly one of the best ever.

"It is a great honour for the Colombian movement to host the first ever ICA General Assembly in South America," he said.

The host organisations,



SaludCoop, (a health care co-operative), and Confedecoop, (the national apex organisation), have been working constantly for the last few months to ensure everything necessary is done for a successful meeting.

Carlos Palacino, has taken a personal interest in these arrange-

ments as chair of the Colombian organising committee for the event.

The General Assembly will also be an opportunity to learn more about the Colombian co-operative movement.

Details are available at www.ica.coop/publications/review/2005.issue2.pdf

Welcome to Colombia



Carlos Palacino



Colombian co-operative movement

The ICA has ten members in Colombia. This is one of the largest numbers of any country amongst the ICA's membership.

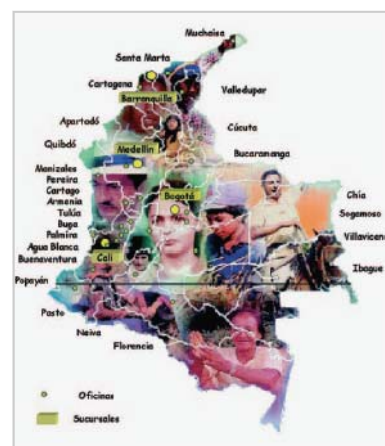
There has been a co-operative presence in Colombia for many years, although legislative recognition only started in 1931. This legal framework served as a basis for promotion of co-operatives by social leaders linked to the Catholic Church and the first

trade unions. Today co-operatives are represented in a variety of sectors. They are strong in the financial, insurance, health, agriculture, transport and workers sectors.

At the end of 2004, there were 5,189 co-operatives in Colombia, generating over 140,000 jobs and with 3 million members.

The Colombian co-operative sector's income, which represents approximately 5.2% of the national

income has been showing an annual growth rate of almost 30%.



ICA Board meeting

The ICA Board will meet prior to the General Assembly on 19-20 September.

This will be the last meeting of the current Board with a new Board being elected at the General Assembly later in the week.

Among matters to be considered will be reports from the ICA President, the Director-General and the Finance Director.

The Board will also hear a presentation on the report of the Governance Working Group, which will be presented to the General Assembly on 23 September.

They will also receive a copy of the ICA's 2004 Annual Report.

This year's report is in a new, more modern format. Copies of the report are available on our website.



Meetings
Sunday
18 September

Two day global youth conference

A two day ICA international youth conference is being held in Cartagena on 18-19 September.



ICA youth network members

Over 70 participants are expected to attend from up to 20 countries.

The youth conference kicks off on Saturday night with a cruise around Cartagena bay, with tropical music and

regional food!

The conference proper starts on Sunday. The main speakers in the opening session will include ICA President, Ivano Barberini, ICA Americas President, Carlos Palacino and Jo Bibby-Scullion, the current youth representative on the ICA Board.

Participants will also hear from speakers outlining the history of the co-op movement, youth and employment from the ILO perspective, as well as former "young co-operators".



A delegate from each youth organisation will share experiences of youth involvement in their countries. A series of workshops will also help identifying key issues for the further development of the youth network.

Monday's opening session will include an outline of the role of the youth representative on the ICA board before hearing presentations from youth network candidates prior to election taking place for the Board representative.



Mike Doyle
ICA Housing

ICA Housing meetings at the General Assembly

ICA Housing will be holding both a Board and general meeting on 18 September.

Among the items for discussion at the general

meeting is a report of the London Board meeting in May which adopted a "compass" document outlining a new vision and mission for ICA Housing. Other matters for discus-

sion include new rules, subscription levies and workplan for next year. Also, ICA Housing's proposed agreement with HUMAN will be discussed.



Vanda Giuliano
Gender Equality C'tee

Gender Equality Committee Meetings

The ICA's Gender Equality Committee will be holding both executive and plenary meetings. Among matters for resolution at the plenary meeting are the

election of a new chairperson, executive and members. There will also be discussion about the forthcoming ICA Board elections and attendance patterns - 3 of the 21 candidates (14%) for the Board

are women, while only 16.9% of the registered representatives who have the right to vote are women.

The plenary will also discuss a workplan for 2006.



Caroline Naett
Communications C'tee

Statutory and planning meetings

The ICA's Communications Committee will be meeting today to coordinate its media and communications activities for the week.

The ICA's Audit and Control Committee will also be meeting in preparation

for its report to the General Assembly.

Other planning meetings today include the ICA Development Committee, along with the executive of the ICA's HRD committee.



Roy Berg Pedersen
Audit and Control C'tee

CICOPA World Conference

CICOPA's 6th World Conference will be held on the theme of *The Contribution of Worker and Artisans' Co-operative to Local Development*.

In the first session of the conference the contribution of artisan co-operatives to local development in Northern India, East Africa and

Germany will be examined.

The focus of the second session is on worker co-operative start ups in industry and services in Korea, Canada, Colombia and Poland.

Co-operative health services in Spain and Costa Rica are examined in the third session of the conference.

The final session will draw

conclusions from the nine case studies on how worker and artisan co-operatives contribute to local development.

See www.ica.coop/cicopa/2005-conf-agenda-en.pdf



IHCO Board and Assembly

The International Health Co-operative Organisation, IHCO will also be meeting in Cartagena.

Matters for discussion include current challenges facing the health co-operative sector and

the preparation of a work programme for next year. The meeting will also be considering the approval of the recent ICA-IHCO agreement and adoption of new IHCO rules to reflect the latest ICA rules.

There will be reports from

the regions and an examination of the latest developments on the IHCO communications front - its website and [IHCO NEWS](#).

Finally, there will be a IHCO board and presidential election.



Rainer Schluter
CICOPA



José Carlos Guisado
IHCO

Two day CLC Planning Workshop

A special two day planning workshop on the Co-operative Learning Centre (CLC) initiative will be held on 18-19 September.

The purpose of the (invitation only) planning workshop is to develop general guidelines for the further development of the

CLC and for the work of its focal point at British Columbia Institute of Co-operative Studies, (BCICS).

A wide range of matters are listed for discussion. These considerations will provide the basis for the public briefings later in the week.

www.learningcentre.coop/



Ian MacPherson
BCICS



[DotCoop](#) will have a very visible presence at the GA - look out for their stall amongst the many exhibitors

More ICA statutory and planning meetings

As noted on page 3, the ICA Board will commence its two day meeting on Monday 19 September.

There are a number of other, mainly invitation only, planning and statutory meetings also planned for this day.

These include meetings of the Governance Working Group and the Elections Committee. These two committees have important tasks to perform and reports to give at the General Assembly later in the week. The executive of the ICBA will be meeting prior to their seminar on the 20 September.



Gun-Britt Mårtensson
Governance Working Group



Yehudah Paz
Chair, Elections C'tee

Sectoral Seminars Tuesday 20 September



Giuseppe Fabretti
Chair, CCI



Eugeniusz Laszkiewicz
President, ICBA



Maurizio Davolio
TICA



Shoji Uemura
Chair, ICFO

Successful consumer co-operatives: competing on our values

Consumer Co-operative International (CCI) the ICA's sectoral organisation for consumer co-operatives is holding a workshop on successful consumer co-operatives.

The workshop will feature case studies showing winning examples of

consumer co-ops with coherent marketing propositions based on clearly projecting the benefits of our co-operative values.

The speakers will include, Bob Burlton, chair of Co-operative Group UK and of the national UK brand panel "Re-launching the co-operative brand in the UK";

Toshifumi Yamashita, Vice President, JCCU Japan; Turid Jodahl, Coop NKL BA, Norway - "Nordic health / healthy food campaign" and finally Marcio F. Blanco do Valle, Vice President, COOP Cooperativa de Consumo, Brazil

Threats, challenges and prospects for development of co-operative banks

The International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) will be holding a seminar on the topic of *Threats, challenges and prospects for co-operative banks*.

A series of speakers will address the prospects for co-operative banks in vari-

ous regions of the world: Eastern Europe – Eugeniusz Laszkiewicz, President of ICBA; Africa – Gideon Muriuki, Managing Director of Co-operative Bank of Kenya; Asia – Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India; Europe – Jean-Claude Dettelleux,

President of Crédit Coopératif. Other speakers include Chris de Noose, World Savings Banks Institute, European Savings Banks Group and Miguel Cardozo, Cooperativa Nacional de Ahorro y Crédito on the topic of co-operative banking in South America.

Social tourism initiatives focus of AGM

The International Association of Tourism Co-operatives (TICA) will be holding its annual general meeting in Cartagena.

The meeting will be considering amongst other matters, future work plans, websites and the current TICA situation;

and relations with the Bureau International de Tourisme (BITS).

The question of social tourism initiatives will be considered under the heading of *Tourism co-operatives and the frontiers of responsible and community tourism*.

Eight of the ICA's nine sectoral organisations will be meeting in Cartagena

Resolution calling for fair WTO trade rules on fish products

A plenary meeting of the ICA's sectoral fishing organisation, the International Co-operative Fishing Organisation (ICFO) will take place in Cartagena on 20 September.

The meeting will consider a range of administrative matters related to its activities in 2004 and planned workplan for 2005. A new executive will also be elected.

Delegates will be asked to consider approving a resolu-

tion calling on the World Trade Organisation for fair trade rules on fish and fish products.

ICAO general meeting

The International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation, (ICAO) will hold its annual general meeting on 20 September.

ICAO is the agricultural sectoral organisation of the ICA. It currently has 48 member organisations

from 38 countries and is one of the larger of the sectoral organisations.

It is expected that around 20 delegates from 15 countries will be attending the meeting. Items listed for discussion include several amendments to the rules of the ICAO, membership and budgetary

matters plus plans for activities in 2006.

The agricultural stream of the General Assembly continues on Wednesday with the joint seminar on *Co-operative Integration of Agricultural Marketing*, see page 8.

Sectoral Seminars
Tuesday
20 September



Churl - Hee Won
ICAO

European health organisation to meet



The European Committee of the International Health Co-operative Organisation will also be taking the occasion of the General Assembly in Cartagena to meet.

The main items on the agenda relate to the rules of IHCO regional structure, which will be debated and plans for future activities.

Regional Council of ICA Americas

The regional governing body of the ICA for the Americas, the Regional Council, will be meeting on 20 September.

Items for discussion include reviewing the GA plans and routine statutory business.

Details of all General Assembly and associated events can be found at www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2005/index.html

New members' reception

A special reception for new ICA members will be held at the General Assembly. This is for organisations which have joined the ICA since the 2003 General Assembly in Oslo, Norway. There have been nineteen new members from fourteen countries. These are:

COLOMBIA	Cooperativa del Magisterio (CODEMA)
COLOMBIA	Corporación Gimnasio Los Pinos
COLOMBIA	Progressa Entidad Cooperativa de los Empleados de Saludcoop
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Instituto de Desarrollo y Crédito Cooperativo (IDECOOP)
GERMANY	Konsumverband eG
GERMANY	Prüfungsverband deutscher Konsum- und Dienstleistungsgenossenschaften e.V. (PDK)
INDIA	National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC)
IRAN	Mollah Al-Movahedin Credit Co-operative (MAMCC)
MEXICO (Rep. of)	Caja Libertad S.C.L.
NETHERLANDS	Oikocredit, Ecumenical Development Co-operative Society
PARAGUAY	Panal Compañía de Seguros Generales S.A. (Propiedad Cooperativa)
POLAND	National Union of Co-operative Banks (KZBS)
PUERTO RICO	Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito de Médicos y Otros Profesionales de la Salud (MEDICOOP)
SERBIA	Co-operative Union of Serbia
SOUTH AFRICA	National Co-operative Association of South Africa (NCASA)
SRI LANKA	National Institute of Co-operative Development
UNITED STATES	CHF International
UNITED STATES	CUNA Mutual Insurance Society
UNITED STATES	Land O'Lakes (LoL)

ICA's membership is continuing to grow demonstrating the relevance of a strong global organisation

Special Interest
Seminars
Wednesday
21 September

Joint seminar on Co-operative Integration of Agricultural Marketing

A seminar on building links between agricultural and consumer co-operatives is being jointly organised by ICAO, CCI and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, ([IFAP](#)).

Establishing efficient agricultural marketing infrastructure in rural and urban areas plays an essen-

tial role in enhancing the welfare of both rural producers and urban consumers.

This seminar will examine strategies which have been successful in linking consumer and producer co-operatives. A wide range of speakers will address this topic from a variety of perspectives.

In addition to the four speakers below, other speakers will include Leonard Msemakweli and Carlos Simancas both from IFAP's Committee on Agricultural Co-operatives, Chikara Sato, from JA-Zenchu, Japan and Clemencia Dupont Cruz, Confecoop, Colombia.



Dae-Kun Chung
NACF



Michael Boland
Kansas State University



Gretchen Warner
Overseas Cooperative Development Council, USA



S. Kibora
ICA Africa

Seminar - *micro-finance is our business!*



Francisco Estevez
WOCCU



Leonard Roland
Oikocredit



Mohamad Ali Hj Baharum
ANGKASA



Martha Cecilia Bohórquez
La Equidad Seguros

Micro-finance is our business! Co-operating out of poverty was the theme of this year's International Co-operative Day.

2005 is also the United Nations' International Year of Microcredit. These

themes are explored in more detail in this special seminar on micro-finance which has been organised by the ICA Gender Equality Committee.

The seminar will feature the four speakers above,

plus Hans Dahlberg, ICMIF, see photo opposite and Gérard Leseul, Crédit Mutuel, France. All these speakers have a detailed knowledge of micro-finance, so this promises to be a very practical and interesting seminar.

Free trade - a challenge for co-operatives

A full day regional seminar on *Free trade: a challenge for co-op enterprises and their integration in the Americas* has been organised by ICA Americas.

Opening presentations will be made by representatives from ICA Americas, SOCODEVI and OAS, the Organisation of America States.

Four working sessions will examine a range of

issues, including a session on examining commercial trading opportunities featuring Mexico, Canada and Chile.

The second working session will consider free trade agreements and the various negotiation options, featuring Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The first session after lunch will consider commercial opportunities for trade featuring Bolivia and Co-

lombia.

The final working session will examine the expectation of the co-operative movement to the signing of Free Trade Agreements - this session will feature Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Dominican Republic.

The last part of this seminar will hear a presentation on a major "Hemispheric Study", involving a series of national studies.

Special Interest
Seminars
Wednesday
21 September



Manuel Mariño
Director, ICA Americas

Global 300 briefing

A briefing on the ICA's new Global 300 project has been arranged for 21 September.

The basic idea behind the Global 300 project is to identify and rank the largest 300 co-operative businesses in the world. The project is designed to address the percep-

tion that co-operatives can not compete with large for-profit business in a globalised economy. This is clearly not the case the initial research suggests they are very successful businesses.

The briefing session will be chaired by Hans Dahlberg, former CEO of ICMIF with a detailed presentation

being provided by Garry Cronan, ICA's Communication Manager.

There will be ample opportunity for questions and discussion on the project including the involvement of members and research organisations in its ongoing development.



Hans Dahlberg

A new online portal to co-op knowledge and training

There will be an opportunity for anyone interested to find out more about the CLC by attending this public briefing on the latest developments. As mentioned elsewhere

in this issue, the CLC is an initiative of the ICA's HRD Committee and is being developed and managed by the British Columbia Institute of Co-operative Stud-

ies. Several speakers including Robin Puga, BCICS, and Yehudah Paz will provide details of this new and exciting on-line co-operative resource.



Robin Puga
BCICS

Asia-Pacific and Europe meetings

The Standing Committee of Asia-Pacific will be holding a meeting on 21 September.

The Standing Committee is comprised of 11 members and is elected by the ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly. It is chaired by Mr. Mu Li who is the ICA

President for Asia and the Pacific and a Vice President on the global Board.

European delegates to the General Assembly are also meeting on 21 September, to consider matters of relevance on the agenda.

IAS Group meeting

The ICA's International Accounting Standards Group will be meeting in Cartagena. Issues for discussion include the ISAB consultation IFRS 3, the IAS for SME's and an update on contacts established with the ISAB working group and staff.



Jean-Claude Detilleux
Chair, IAS Group

**General
Assembly
Thursday
22 September**

Formal aspects of the General Assembly

The formal opening of the ICA 2005 General Assembly will take place on Thursday 22 September.

It is expected that over 1400 delegates, observers and invited visitors will be present for the opening

ceremony, making it potentially the largest ever.

The official opening will commence with a welcome from the Mayor of Cartagena, Alberto Rafael Eduardo Barbosa and the President of the Colombian Senate, Claudia Blum.

There will also be formal presentations from José Antonio Ocampo, United Nations, Carlos Palacino and Ivano Barberini from the ICA, see *below*. A series of keynote presentations will follow, see *opposite page* for details.



Claudia Blum
President of the
Colombian Senate



José Antonio Ocampo
Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations



Carlos Palacino
ICA Vice President,
Americas



Ivano Barberini
ICA President

ICA President to emphasise role of values and culture

ICA President, Ivano Barberini, will take the opportunity of his address to the General Assembly to emphasise the role of values and culture in addressing the problems of globalisation.

Ivano Barberini believes, "the challenge for those concerned about the fate of

humankind is to show that, in a globalised economy, financial development can only be achieved jointly with justice and human dignity".

There is a key opportunity here for co-operatives - however the President cautions:

"we must be proud of our

roots and our system of values. At the same time, we must be severe with ourselves, keeping in mind the admonishment of Zigmunt Bauman:

Belonging to a system of values must be demonstrated by deeds, for all our life, and not simply by waving a flag at their birth."

**The General
Assembly is
the largest
meeting of
co-operators
in the world**

Colombian President to close General Assembly

The 2005 ICA General Assembly will be officially closed by the Colombian President, Alvaro Uribe.

The closing ceremony will take place on Friday 23 September after the conclusion of the statutory business of

the Assembly.

The presence of the country's leading politician demonstrates the importance the Government places on the co-operative movement and its leadership.



Alvaro Uribe
President of Colombia

Co-operative principles ten years on

It was in 1995 at the ICA's Centenary Congress in Manchester in the UK that the ICA co-operative principles were last revised.

This year marks their tenth anniversary and to celebrate the occasion, the ICA has asked co-operative historian, Dr Johnston Birchall to

reflect on how the latest principles have been used by co-operatives to help drive their business success.

Dr Birchall will outline his conclusions in one of the four keynote presentations to the General Assembly. A copy of his paper can be found in the [ICA Review of Co-operation, Vol 98 2/2005](#)

Dr Johnston Birchall is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Stirling in the UK.

He is well known for his co-operative research. His publications, include: Co-operatives and the Millennium Development Goals, ILO, 2004, The International Co-operative Movement, Manchester University Press, 1997, Co-op: the People's Business, Manchester

Keynote Presentations Thursday 22 September



Johnston Birchall

Co-operatives: competitive business models

Alban D'Amours' presentation will focus on the competitiveness of the co-operative business model.

He is in no doubt that it is a very competitive model. Using the example of the Desjardins Group, he identifies the key building blocks of a

successful co-operative business model. One of the lessons Alban D'Amours draws is that it is hard work, requiring commitment and a belief in the model. He also points out that because of their success, co-ops are constantly under challenge from their for-profit competitors.

Alban D'Amours, is President and CEO of Desjardins Group, the largest integrated co-operative financial group in Canada, with assets of US\$ 83 billion and 5.5 million members and clients. After a distinguished academic career, he also served in the Québec government as Deputy Minister of Revenue and Deputy Minister of Energy.



Alban D'Amours

Social responsibility driving mainstream business

Sherron Watkins knows about governance failures in the corporate world.

She notes that Enron's leadership set the company's culture and value system and established a virtual breeding ground for not just thinking outside of the box, or push-

ing the envelope, but for actual fraud. Enron was known as the most innovative company – *Fortune Magazine* named Enron just that, for seven years in a row. Unfortunately the dark side of innovation is fraud. Learn why other businesses are now so interested in values.

Prior to joining Enron in 1993, Ms. Watkins worked for 3 years as the portfolio manager of MG Trade Finance Corp., a commodity lending boutique in New York and for 8 years in the auditing group of Arthur Andersen. She is a Certified Public Accountant. She holds a Masters in Professional Accounting as well as a B.B.A. in accounting and business honours from the University of Texas at Austin.



Sherron Watkins

Co-operatives making fair globalisation a reality

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs will be addressing the role co-operatives can play in making globalisation fairer.

The 2004 report of the *World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation*, an ILO initiative,

acknowledged the critically important role co-operatives can play by among other aspects, strengthening economic capability and corporate social responsibility through the application of values and principles.

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs has recently been appointed as ILO Executive Director. He is an economist, with a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Cambridge, England. Previous positions include Director of the Trade Unit at the Organization of American States (OAS) and Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica.



José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs

**Business
Fora
Thursday
22 September**



Seah Kian Peng



Carlos Palacino
SaludCoop



Kari Neilimo



Trent Bartlett

Successful co-operative business models

This session will be focused on examining four co-operative success stories.

Fairprice - Singaporean success against multi-nationals

NTUC FairPrice is a leading retailer in Singapore, running a chain of over 130 supermarkets and convenience stores with a combined turnover of over US\$780 million and over 5,000 employees. The title of Seah Kian

Peng presentation is *Home Advantage : How a National Retailer makes life challenging for Multinational Companies*.

He will outline the business and co-operative strategies which have enable Fairprice to compete so successfully.

Seah Kian Peng is Chair of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), the apex body representing the co-operative movement in Singapore. Concurrently, Mr. Seah is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of NTUC Fair-Price Co-operative and the CEO of NTUC Media Co-operative.

Saludcoop - Fast growing health care co-operative

SaludCoop started operations in 1995. It has shown rapid growth ever since.

It now has more than 2 million users, approximately 6% of the Colombian population. It operates in more than 750

cities and towns in Colombia. It is also the second largest employer in the country. As at June 2001 it had US\$ 100 million in assets, with revenue US\$ 142 million. These numbers confirm its importance in the economic and social fields in Colombia.

Carlos Palacino was elected by the Regional Assembly for the Americas as the ICA Americas President and ratified by the ICA General Assembly in Oslo in September 2003. He is the President of Saludcoop, a healthcare co-operative in Colombia

S Group - the Finnish Cooperative Success Story

The S Group's revenue for 2003 was over 7 billion euros, (US\$8.5 billion).

Kari Neilimo's presentation will outline the strategic success factors which have enabled this

co-operative group to grow to its present size in Finland and the Baltic States. He will outline how to go from business ideas and co-operative values to effective business chains. He will also outline the challenges facing the group as a co-operative in Finland

Kari Neilimo is currently CEO of the S Group. He has an M.Sc. (Econ.). He has held various academic positions most recently as Professor of Strategic Management and Accounting at the University of Tampere.. He has published extensively on management and accounting issues and has held many senior business positions.

Capricorn - one of Australia's fastest growing businesses

Capricorn Society is the largest independent automotive parts buying co-operative in Australia.

It is one of the country's fastest growing privately owned enterprises. Capricorn has over 10,000 members in three countries, Australia, New Zea-

land, and South Africa. Its turnover exceeds US\$ 407 million. This co-operative is a very good example of how to build international membership as you expand into new markets. Capricorn has also recently formed an insurance mutual to assist its members.

Prior to joining Capricorn, as CEO in 2001, Trent Bartlett worked in Australia's largest retail companies of Coles Myer, Aherns and David Jones. He holds postgraduate degrees in both business and e-commerce, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and is Deputy Chair of the Council of Co-operatives, Western Australia.

Level playing field for co-operatives to compete

This session is focused on the legislative and policy environment in which co-operatives operate. There will be four presentations:

- **Equal Treatment of Co-operatives in Legislation and the issue of Taxation**, Hagen Henry, Professor at Helsinki University, Finland
- **International Accounting Standards: Threat to Co-operative Identity**, Hervé Guider, Secretary-General, European Association of Co-operative Banks, Belgium and Member of the ICA Working Group on International Accounting Standards
- **The Impact of Trade Blocks: EU-MERCOSUR**, Ricardo Rodríguez Silvero, Consultant, Professor of Economics, Former Legal and Executive Advisor to the Government of Paraguay
- **World Trade Organisation (WTO): Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives**, Fabienne Derrien, Policy Officer in charge of agricultural co-operatives, International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

All of the above issues are of immediate concern to co-operatives. The presentations will help provide an analysis of key future trends in each of these areas and how co-operatives can best respond.



Hagen Henry

Dr. Hagen Henry, Docent at Helsinki University. Former advisor to the German Federal Minister of Economy. Since 1993 independent advisor on co-operative legislation and policy for numerous national, regional and international governmental and non governmental organisations, amongst which the ICA and ILO, in some 30 countries around the world. Co-ordinator of the ICA Legislative Advisory Group.



Fabienne Derrien
IFAP

Fabienne Derrien is Policy Officer in the International Federation of Agricultural Producers in charge of Agricultural Co-operatives. Fabienne is French, speaking also English and Spanish, and has a master in Social and Economic Development from Sorbonne University in Paris. Upon completion of her studies, she was assigned to evaluate indigenous farmers' co-operatives in Peru and in the jungle of Panama.

**Business
Fora
Thursday
22 September**

A number of recent policy and legislative trends are threatening the co-operative identity - learn why

Nominees for the Rochdale Pioneers Award

The list of nominees for the three awarding of the Rochdale Pioneers Award are listed below. The popularity of this award continues to grow with a record number of nominees this time.

- The Mondragon Co-operative Corporation, Spain
- Hans Dahlberg, Sweden
- Floreal Edmundo Gorini, Argentina
- Raija Itkonen Finland
- Ian MacPherson, Canada
- Yehudah Paz, Israel
- Florencio Eguia Villasenor, Mexico
- Shan Thuraisingham, Malaysia
- André Chomel, France

Previous winners are:

- 2001 - Dr Venghese Kurien, India
- 2003 - Francisco Luis Jimenez Arcila, Colombia, and Lloyd Wilkinson, UK



The Rochdale Pioneers

**Business
Fora
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**COOPERATING
OUT
OF
POVERTY**

You can learn more about the Cooperating Out of Poverty campaign by visiting the website www.ica.coop/outofpoverty

Global solidarity - Co-operating Out of Poverty

The vast potential of co-operatives in contributing to reducing poverty, can only be effectively exploited if we succeed in harnessing the financial and ethical strength of the world co-operative movement.

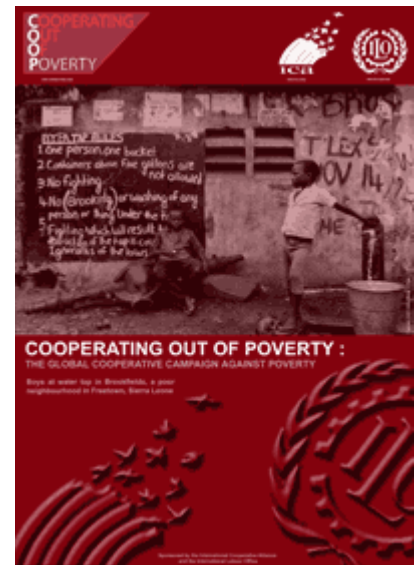
The tsunami experience and the overwhelming response from the co-operative world to the ICA's appeal to help the stricken members and societies rebuild their lives, has shown the potential of co-operatives to alleviate suffering.

This session on *Global Solidarity: Co-operating out of Poverty* will provide an opportunity to learn about the tragedy and what has happened since

from co-operators in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of SANASA Development Bank, Sri Lanka, H.M. Hanafiah, DEKOPINWIL, Indonesia, and Robby Tulus, ICA Field Co-ordinator, Tsunami reconstruction programme will all directly address this issue.

Dave Sitaram, President, Canadian Co-operative Association will speak about CCA's experience in poverty reduction and how its development programme contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in general and the fight against poverty in particular.



Finally, Ramón Imperial will talk about poverty reduction in an American context. This promises to be a thought provoking and challenging session.



P.A. Kiriwandeniya

Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya (known to most as Kiri), leader of the SANASA movement and President of the SANASA Group of enterprises. A much respected leader in Sri Lanka, Kiri has provided consistent and effective leadership and guided SANASA through its most significant periods of growth.



H.M. Hanafiah

Mr. Hanafiah is the Chair of the Regional Co-operative Council of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province. H.M. Hanafiah has first hand experience of the tsunami. He and his family literally ran for their lives when the tsunami struck Banda Aceh destroying everything, including his house. Since then he has been involved in the co-op reconstruction.



Robby Tulus

Robby Tulus is a joint Indonesian and Canadian national. He is a former ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific. Most recently he has been working with the ICA as its regional tsunami co-ordinator responsible for conducting a needs assessment of tsunami affected co-operative movements and developing reconstruction plans.



Dave Sitaram

Dave Sitaram was elected President of the Canadian Co-operative Association in 2004. He first joined that Board in 2003 and served on the association's International Program Committee. Employed by General Motors in Oshawa, Mr. Sitaram is married with two children.



Ramón Imperial

Mr. Imperial is currently President of Caja Popular Mexicana CPM, a financial co-operative which has around 900 thousand members. He has also been a Board member of the Cooperative Development Committee, Parliament of Mexico, President of COLAC, President of COMACREP, member of Board of Director in the International Raiffeisen Union, IRU.

Co-operative innovation - sector perspective

This session focus on innovation from a sectoral perspective, covering the worker, energy and communications sectors. Martin Lowery's presentation will focus on highlighting the size and importance of rural electric co-ops in the US - The assets of electric cooperatives in the United States today total over \$86 billion. He will particularly mention innovative Touch-tone Energy brand. Vivian Woodell will outline the successful strategies the Phone Co-op have followed to make them one of the most innovative social businesses in the UK. Bruno Roelants will explain how the worker co-operative model is a driver of innovation, illustrating with examples from amongst others, social co-operatives and clusters of industrial co-operative enterprises. Luis Fernando Añez Pereyra will discuss the role and development of energy co-operatives in Bolivia.



Vivian Woodell

Since mid-1998, Vivian Woodell has been founder and Chief Executive of The Phone Co-op. After only seven years of operation, the Phone Co-op has 13,000 telephone and internet customers, and an annual turnover of US\$ 9.2 million. Vivian is currently president of Oxford, Swindon and Gloucester Co-operative Society. He has also served on the Board of the European Confederation of Worker Co-ops (CECOP) and on the Executive of CICOPA.



Bruno Roelants

Since 2002, Bruno has been Secretary General of CICOPA, as well as Director of ECG (European Association of Cooperative Groups). Since 2003 he has been an Expert of the European Economic and Social Committee. He has published numerous papers and articles on co-operative topics. He has a Master in Development Studies, Employment and Labour Programme from the institute of Social Studies, The Hague, as well as a Physician and Bachelor of Medicine.



Martin Lowery

Martin Lowery is Executive Vice President, External Affairs of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in USA. Dr. Lowery received a Bachelor of Arts (cum laude) from DePaul University and his Ph.D from Duke University. NRECA is the national service organization dedicated to representing the national interests of cooperative electric utilities and the consumers they serve. Electric co-operatives built, own and maintain 2.4 million miles of the electric distribution lines, covering 75% of the landmass of the USA.

Luis Fernando Añez Pereyra.

Luis Fernando Añez Pereyra has a Bachelor's degree in Economy (1988), Federal de Minas Gerais University, Brazil as well as post-graduate qualifications from University of California, Berkeley, USA. He is currently General Manager, CRE Cooperativa Electrica, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. (no photo available)

Candidates for election at the General Assembly

President (1 to be elected)
Ivano Barberini, Italy

ICA Board (15 to be elected.)
Steinar DVERGSDAL, Norway
Ramon IMPERIAL ZUNIGA, Mexico
Abdolrahman CHERAGHALI, Iran
Maria Lourdes Concepcion ORTELLADO SIENRA, Paraguay
SEAH Kian Peng, Singapore
Rahaiah BAHERAN, Malaysia
Valentin ERMAKOV, Russia
Dae-Kun CHUNG, Korea
Felice SCALVINI, Italy
Americo UTUMI, Brazil

Audit & Control Committee (5 to be elected)
Roy Berg PEDERSEN, Norway
Rene SITTNER, Germany

Alban D'AMOURS, Canada
Jean-Claude DETILLEUX, France
Joseph MUKASA, Uganda
Isami MIYATA, Japan
Paul HAZEN, USA
Pal BARTUS, Hungary
Sawai Singh SISODIA, India
Gun-Britt MARTENSSON, Sweden
Janusz PASZKOWSKI, Poland
ARIKAMA CHABI Mouhamadou, Benin
Elizabeth Aba SMITH, Ghana

Shugo OGURA, Japan
Philip HOLMES, UK
Esther GICHERU, Kenya

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www.ica.coop

*The winner of the
Rochdale Pioneers
Award will be an-
nounced prior to
the close of the
formal business of
the General
Assembly.*

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

Retiring ICA Board members

Five long standing elected ICA Board members are retiring at this year's General Assembly. As well two co-opted Board members along with the youth representative will also be stepping down. The ICA would like to place on record its deep appreciation for their years of outstanding service. A number of existing Board members along with other candidates are seeking election for the fifteen board positions up for election at the General Assembly.



*Stefania Marcone
Italy*



*David Miller,
USA*



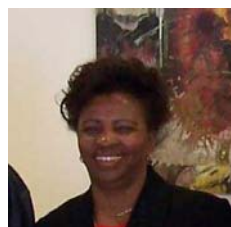
*Yehudah Paz
Israel*



*Glen Tully
Canada*



*Ousseynou Dieng
Senegal*



*Esther Gicheru
Kenya (co-opted)*



*Jo Biddy Scullion UK
(youth representative)*

Elba Echevarria Diaz
Puerto Rico a co-
opted Board mem-
ber is also retiring.

General Assembly - statutory business

Friday 23 September is the last day of the General Assembly. It is concerned with statutory business.

There are a number of key matters. In the morning session there will be reports from both the ICA President, Ivano Barberini and Director-General, Iain Macdonald. The ICA's external auditor will also make a report to delegates, as will the chair of the Audit and Control Committee.

The final business of the morning session will be voting for the election of the President, Board and the Audit and Con-

trol Committee, the results of which will be announced during the afternoon session.

The afternoon session will also include a report from the chair of the Governance Working Group, Gun-Britt Mårtensson. The Report includes many recommendations for governance improvements.

A resolution has been submitted for consideration of the General Assembly by the ICA Board. The resolution calls on all ICA members to promote co-operative worker ownership. A copy of the resolution can be found on our website see www.ica.coop/publications/review/2005.issue2.pdf

The formal closing ceremony by the Colombian President, Alvaro Uribe, will mark the end of the Assembly.



*Iain Macdonald
ICA Director-General*