



ICA Digest

Issue 48

April 2006

Inside this issue:

- From the editor's desk 2
- ICA Board meets in Washington 2
- ICA CEO Forum 3
- DG's report 4
- Regionalisation 5
- International 6
- Tsunami 6
- Co-ops and the Davos WEF 7
- Asia Pacific 8
- Housing 10
- Global 300 12
- Europe 13
- New websites and books 14
- Education, research, and media 15
- People 16
- .Coop 17
- Interview 18
- Calendar 20

Editor: Garry Cronan
cronan@ica.coop

Associate Editor:
Suzanne Henderson

www.ica.coop

ICA's first CEO Forum a great success

The first ever ICA global CEO Forum was judged a great success by participants.

The forum was held in Imola, near Bologna in Italy on 18-19 April 2006. It was hosted by SACMI an industrial worker co-operative based in Imola.

Ivano Barberini, ICA President said "this was a significant forum. It was characterised by very frank discussion from CEO's on how you retain and use co-operative values to succeed in a competitive global marketplace".

He added, "there was clearly a strong demand from among the CEO's for more information on practical and successful business models based on co-operative values.

The forum was attended by 30 participants (and speakers). They came from 9

countries, in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas representing 16 major co-operative enterprises - most are included in ICA's **Global 300** list of the world's largest co-operatives.

See page 3 for further reports.



Ivano Barberini, ICA President, on right congratulates Domenico Olivieri, President of SACMI on the successful hosting of the CEO Forum

Board focuses on regionalisation issues

The main focus of the forthcoming ICA Board meeting in Washington, D.C. USA on 3-4 May 2006 will be the ongoing debate on regionalisation within the ICA.

The meeting will receive a report and recommendations from the interim Regionalisation Group as well as related reports from the ICA's Governance Working Group and the recently formed ICA Sectoral Working Group.

The National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) of the USA are hosting the ICA Board meeting on behalf of the US movement.

It will coincide with a series of major US co-operative meetings and events in Washington all designed to raise the profile of the co-op movement.

See also related reports on pages 2 and 5.

"The Washington meeting will be very important in setting the direction for regionalisation and restructuring within the ICA"

From the editor's desk



Garry Cronan
Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of the ICA **Digest**.

This month our lead item is on co-operative business. We report on the ICA's first CEO Forum held in Italy in April.

The next ICA Board meeting, will, as noted, take place in Washington, DC, USA in early May. Its main focus will be the ongoing regionalisation debate.

We report on this debate while also carrying a number of other items on regionalisation and governance.

The occasion of the Washington meeting gives us an opportunity to highlight the work of NCBA, the host organisation for the meeting. We feature an interview with NCBA's CEO, Paul Hazen.

As usual we carry reports from other regions and sectors, in particular this month the Asia-Pacific region and the co-operative housing sector.

Updates on the latest co-op websites and publications are included as is our now regular monthly report from the ICA's Direc-

tor-General. New education and research developments are also noted.

Finally, I would like to welcome to the **Digest** team Suzanne Henderson and Melina Morrison. Both are now assisting on a part-time basis with the production of this publication.

As usual we would welcome your comments on or contributions to the **Digest**.

Garry Cronan

cronan@ica.coop

ICA Board

2006 will be a busy year for the ICA Board.

There will be debates on regionalisation in Washington in May, a special strategic planning meeting in Stockholm in September and finally another board meeting in Trento in December to end the year.

Full agenda for Washington Board meeting

A part for the regionalisation debate and reports mentioned on page 1 of the **Digest** the ICA Board has a very full agenda of items to be discussed in Washington.

In addition to the regionalisation reports the Board will consider other governance matters including finalising arrangements for its first special strategic planning meeting in Stockholm on 5-6 September 2006.

Africa is also expected to be the focus of the Board's attention. They will be

receiving a report on how to strengthen the ICA's African regional structure and services.

ICA membership continues to grow. Four new applications for membership have been received by the ICA and will be formally considered by the Board in Washington.

A set of final audited accounts for 2005 will also be presented to the Board for approval.

It will also be receiving a report on some recent communications initiatives.

In particular, two new ICA global websites will be previewed at the meeting prior to their launch later in May.

Board members will have an opportunity to attend a series of other co-op events including the USA national Co-operative Leadership Summit and the induction of US co-operators into its Hall of Fame.

The next full Board meeting after Washington will be in Trento, Italy on 7-8 December 2006. Contact: macdonald@ica.coop

Other ICA meetings in Washington

A part from the ICA Board several other statutory, committee or related meetings will be taking place. These include:

- 2 May - ICA Audit and Control Committee meeting
- 3 May - ICA President's Committee meeting
- 4 May - Dot Coop Board meeting
- 5 May - IAS Working Group meeting
- 5 May - ICA Regional Directors/Senior Staff meeting

CEO Forum looks at whether you can be both large and co-operative as well as globally competitive

CEO Forum



Some of the participants at the conclusion of the ICA CEO Forum

Is it possible to compete globally as a co-operative?

How do you turn your co-operative structure and

values into a competitive advantage? Can you have members in many countries?

These were some of the questions raised in the ICA's first CEO Forum.

The idea behind this forum series is to give CEO's of large **Global 300** co-operatives an opportunity to honestly discuss these and related issues.

Co-operative CEO's attending the Forum have, or represented co-operatives with an aggregate turnover over USD 150 billion. They

came from a range of industries including, consumer, banking, insurance, agriculture, industrial and construction, travel, social care and health.

It became apparent through the keynote presentations, case studies and discussion that what was working in one country or sector might also be relevant in another.

What all the CEO's said was that they would like to exchange experiences and gain a better understanding of how principles and competitiveness work and inter-relate.

For further information

"How do we ensure that growing co-ops stay as co-ops when they become large - ICA has a role to play in sharing such experiences"

CEO Forum participant



Kim Dong-Hae, NACF, Korea on left, and Jesus Herrasti, Mondragon Corporation, Spain presenting their case studies in session one of the Forum

Case studies highlight different strategies

- The Forum had three keynote presentations and six co-operative case studies:
- **Features of Globalisation** - Prof Pier Carlo Padoan, Professor of Economics, University of Rome
 - NACF, Korea - Kim Dong-Hae
 - Mondragon Corporation, Spain - Jesus Herrasti
 - **Co-operative Values** - Dr Ian MacPherson, Director, British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies, University of Victoria, Canada
 - SACMI, Italy - Giulio Cicognani
 - The Co-operative Group, UK - Bob Burlton and Zoé Morgan
 - **New Co-operative Business Models** - Professor Daniel Côté, HEC Montreal, Canada
 - CIC, Kenya - Nelson Kuria
 - NTUC Income, Singapore - Tan Kian Lian



Jean-Louis Bancel, Groupe Credit Cooperatif, France making a point at the Forum

9 out of 10 participants rated the forum as excellent or very good. Almost all said they would attend another similar ICA CEO Forum.

DG's monthly report



Iain Macdonald
ICA Director-General

ICA Director-General launches a series of keynote speeches to highlight the size and success of the co-operative movement.

Read his monthly report opposite

“There is no need to be defensive about our way of doing business”

Iain Macdonald

Co-operatives mean business says ICA Director-General

Every now and again I am allowed to return to the UK from whence I came, and recently I spoke at the annual general meeting of Leeds Co-operative Society.

This is one of the bigger consumer co-operatives in the UK and rather successful at the moment. With nearly 300 people in attendance it was a very healthy meeting with the usual critical debate - an essential ingredient for a good co-operative discussion in the UK!

As a good example of a successful co-operative business however, it gave me the opportunity to emphasise the ICA's policy of promoting the business credentials of our co-operative members.

Of course at all of these kind of meetings I take the opportunity to remind the audience of the enormous size and scale of the international co-operative movement - and in almost all cases people are astonished to realise the extent of the movement they are part of.

It is one of our most frustrating traits - not knowing our own organisation. And until we know ourselves, we can hardly expect others, outside of the movement, to know much about us.

So I used the Leeds opportunity to launch a series of keynote speeches this year. They are intended to highlight the size and successes of our movement, both to ourselves and to the outside world.

Not only does it raise our profile in the international community, it makes the organisations themselves, like Leeds, promote their own self-image which can only benefit the business.

I see international co-operation as a vehicle challenging the assumptions and excesses of free-market globalisation. This is an ongoing debate which emerged from discussions at our General Assembly in Cartagena.

Many of us there were motivated by Sherron Watkins, the whistleblower from Enron, who challenged us to convince the rest of the business world that the co-operative movement was the natural home of corporate social responsibility. There is no need to be defensive about our way of doing business.

However we do need to know more about ourselves and understand the issues facing us. We need to have

more imagination in our business dealings; to face the challenge of capital availability for instance, whilst remaining within our values and principles. This is why we are constantly emphasising the importance of communication and why we must strive to build up a better and more accurate statistical base. We seek to provide a better service to our members from a business orientation point of view which is where our **Global 300** project comes in.

We also need to expose the myth of demutualisation using reports such as that recently produced by the British Parliament which shows how demutualised companies have failed to perform as well as they did as mutuals. The World Bank and the WTO and other international bodies need to know that the co-operative model of business is a better one.

My audience in Leeds seemed to like this message. It's quite simple - *Co-operatives Mean Business!*

Iain Macdonald
April, 2006

DG's calendar for the next month.....

My calendar for the next month is as usual very busy. It includes a busy round of ICA meetings, including the Board meeting in Washington in the first week of May. Along, with Ivano Barberini, ICA President I will also be holding a series of meetings in Washington with leaders of the US co-operative movement.

Later in May I will also be taking part in the International Labor Organisation's *Co-operatives and Employment* Expert Group Meeting and Technical Workshop in China, see separate report. We will also be attending our Chinese member, ACFSMC's, International Agricultural Co-operative Economy Meeting which is timed around the same time

Regionalisation Group makes recommendations to Board

The ICA Regionalisation Working Group was formed following the December 2005 consultative and board meetings in Geneva.

It comprises two representatives from each of the ICA regions, senior ICA staff including the Regional Directors and also representatives of the Governance Working Group. It is chaired by the Director-General, Iain Macdonald.

The group first met in Geneva on 8 February.

It met again on 20 April. This meeting was attended in person by Etienne Pflimlin, Rainer Schluter, Manuel Marino, Maria Elena Chavez Hertig and Iain Macdonald. Connected by telephone conference were Gun Britt Mårtensson, Ada Kibora, Joseph Mukasa, Paul Hazen and Yehudah Paz.

The meeting dealt with four

main areas related to regionalisation:

- Legal status
- Roles and functions of the various parts of the ICA
- Membership and subscriptions criteria
- Finance

On the basis of their discussion the group have made a number of recommendations for the Board to consider.

Regionalisation

The Washington board meeting will be considering a number of regionalisation recommendations. ICA's four Regional Assemblies later this year will also be considering regionalisation

Work proceeding on statute for Co-operatives Europe

A statute working group, which is preparing a draft statutes for "Co-operatives Europe" met in Brussels in early April.

This group is preparing a draft which is intended to transfer the recently incorporated *Co-operatives Europe ASBL* into the ICA Region for Europe.

The process of regionalisation commenced in the ICA at the 1992 ICA Congress in Tokyo, Japan

Joint declaration on regionalisation by ICA sectoral organisations

The ICA's sectoral organisations have established a working group to achieve better coordination among themselves and also with the ICA's Head Office.

The group includes representatives drawn from the ICA nine sectoral organisations.

It has met 4 times so far,

once physically at the ICA meeting on 6-7 December 2005 in Geneva, and three times electronically since then.

One of the first items addressed by the new group has been regionalisation.

A declaration on regionalisation has been agreed by the sectoral organisations.

It is being presented to the Washington Board meeting.

The declaration notes "that sectoral organisations should be more clearly taken into account in the ongoing regionalisation and restructuring process".

For more information Bruno Roelants broelants@compuserve.com



Bruno Roelants

Governance Working Group surveying ICA members

The Governance Working Group (GWG) is currently conducting a survey of ICA members on the decentralisation – regionalisation process occurring within the ICA.

The idea behind the

GWG's survey is to ensure that the widest possible number of ICA members have a direct opportunity to have a say on the regionalisation issues.

If you have not yet completed the survey please fill it in and return it to the

GWG.

A preliminary report on the results so far will be provided to the Washington Board meeting. The GWG will be next meeting after the Board meeting on 15 May 2006.

"..the survey will give members an opportunity to have a say on regionalisation ..."

GWG

International

UN/ILO/ICA expert group meeting on co-operatives and employment to be held in China



The UN and ILO invited ICA to participate in the organisation of an Expert Group Meeting on Co-operatives Employment to be held in Shanghai, China, 15-19 May.

The event is being hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives.

The ICA has participated in the selection of participants from within ICA's sectoral and global membership. The ICA President and DG will participate.

The aim of the meeting is:

- to identify and evaluate strategies to promote and reinforce the contribution of co-operatives to promote job creation and social inclusion as a means of reducing poverty
- to recommend policies to scale up sustainable employment initiatives to creating conducive environments that will support and facilitate the implementation of cooperative employment initiatives and strategies at the local, national and interna-

- tional levels; and
- to identify and explore options for future directions, activities and research in areas where the cooperative advantage can be exploited to provide sustainable employment opportunities

The outcome of the meeting will provide inputs into the Report of the UN Secretary-General to the 62nd session of the General Assembly in 2007. More information: www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty/subpages/coop_egm2.htm

Co-op Business - China



Mu Li,
ACFSMC and
ICA Board

International agricultural co-operative meeting in China

The All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperative, (ACFSMC) and Jiangsu Provincial Government of China will jointly hold the 2006 Modern Agriculture Expo and the International Agricultural Co-operative Economic Meeting from 14-17 May 14 2006.

The Expo and co-operative meeting will be held in

Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, near Shanghai in China.

ACFSMC have previously held a very successful Co-op Expo in Beijing when they last hosted an ICA Board meeting during 2004.

These co-operative events are time to coincide with the ILO's Employment and

Co-operatives Workshop described above and a meeting of the Standing Committee of ICA - Asia

& Pacific Region. Both ICA President, Ivano Barberini and Director-General, Ian Macdonald will be attending these events.



Tsunami update

ICA members and others will shortly receive a detailed progress report on ICA's tsunami reconstruction work in Banda Aceh

Further appeal to assist co-operatives affected by tsunami

Regular **Digest** readers may recall that the ICA carried out an in-depth action survey in Banda Aceh in July and August 2005 that paved the way for a programme proposal, prepared by ICA special tsunami adviser Robby Tulus. This proposal has previously been sent to members.

The ICA is now in the process of sending out appeals to our membership asking them to assist us in rebuilding Aceh. In our appeal we

emphasise that it is now important that the ICA and its member-co-operatives play an active role in supporting the post-tsunami co-operative reconstruction programme at a time when other agencies are starting to wind down as soon as infra-structure projects are completed within the next two years.

For further information contact Jan-Eirik Imbsen imbsen@ica.coop



Tsunami reconstruction

ICA and the *World Economic Forum*

ICA has approached the WEF to build an issue-based partnership. It was invited to participate in a brainstorming session on the agenda of the World Economic Forum on Africa 2006.

The ICA joined the World Bank, ILO, UNCTAD, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Migration Organisation (IOM), trade union, business and government officials in an informal discussion on the priorities for Africa.

The WEF event, "Going for growth", will examine how African enterprise can improve the investment climate to improve growth and the creation of

jobs. Issues raised included the new challenges including the bird flu, HIV/AIDS, youth, and the IT, the impact of China and India, improving cross border trade, the issue of perception and branding for Africa and small enterprise development.

The distinction of "aid for trade" as proposed by the World Trade Organisation and "trade not aid" as proposed with African contexts was also raised.

ICA shared the Syndicoop experience (ILO/ICA/ICFTU) of how partnering has led to formalising the informal economy in Africa through co-operatives and has successfully created decent jobs.

The WEF's Africa Economic Summit is the region's premier gathering of leaders from business, politics and civil society, and it is our belief that co-operatives could contribute to as well as benefit from participation in this Forum which takes place in Cape Town from 31 May to 2 June.

The WEF showed interest in following up. Jan-Eirik Imbsen and Maria Elena Chavez Hertig participated. ICA will be seeking to facilitate ICA Africa's participation in the Forum at the end of May. More information: www.weforum.org/africa

International



Considering the size and importance of the world co-operative movement the involvement of co-operatives in the World Economic Forum is well overdue.

ICA and the *Forum for a Responsible Globalisation*

Iain Macdonald, ICA Director-General recently met, on 18 April in Lyons, France with Jacques Terrenoire, Director of the Forum.

The meeting was for partner organisations involved in the Lyon Forum. The ICA is working closely

with the *Forum for a Responsible Globalisation* to highlight the contribution co-operatives can make to a fairer globalisation.

Jacques Terrenoire, also participated in the recent ICA CEO Forum where he formally invited CEO's of some of the world's

largest co-operatives to attend the Forum in Lyon. He was particularly interested in highlighting and on how co-operatives combine economic and social objectives.

Contact Garry Cronan cronan@ica.coop



ICA and ECOSOC's *Civil Society Forum*

ICA has been invited to participate in a Civil Society Forum organised by the Conference of NGOs with Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

The forum is for organisations which, like the ICA, have a high level

status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, [ECOSOC](http://www.un.org/ecosoc).

The *Civil Society Forum* will be held in Geneva from 29th June to 5th July 2006.

The aim of the Forum is to allow NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and other interested civil

society organisations to make the best possible impact on ECOSOC's deliberations on the issues of employment and decent work.

For further information contact, Maria Elena Chavez Hertig chavez@ica.coop



[ECOSOC NGO Forum](http://www.ecosoc-ngo-forum.org)
website

Regions Asia-Pacific

Agricultural Diversification Brings Economic Success in Timor-Leste

The National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), see also separate report in this issue, is a key partner in USAID's efforts to help the farmers of Timor-Leste raise incomes and expand economic activity.



Coffee is the country's most valuable export, but NCBA has

helped UCCT, Timor-Leste's largest co-operative organisation, to diversify its members' economic base with high-value alternatives, including vanilla bean production and cattle fattening.

NCBA's assistance to UCCT has resulted in significantly improved global market opportunities for their products. As well, NCBA has worked to improve the welfare of co-operative members. UCCT has been able to open a training academy

for coffee growers and other farmers, provide ongoing business training to budding entrepreneurs, develop an export market for high-quality vanilla beans, and open trade links with neighbouring Indonesia to sell cattle in West Timor.

One of the largest buyers of UCCT coffee is Starbucks. UCCT has now moved to a self-sustaining business model for its coffee production and export activities. More: <http://timor-leste.usaid.gov/EGHighlights1.htm>

Japanese call for worker co-operative legislation

An unprecedented meeting calling for worker co-operative legislation in Japan was held on March 16 at Meiji University in Tokyo.



Ivano Barberini

Japan is one of the few countries to have no worker cooperative law. Without legislation, it is difficult to promote worker co-operative movements. The Citizen Forum on Worker Co-operative Legislation (CFWCL) was established in November 2000.

Since then, Japan Workers'

Co-operative Union has worked with other organizations to promote worker coop law and to undertake the ILO 193 Recommendation.

The meeting attracted over 300 people from co-ops, trade unions, women's groups, organisations for disabled people, students and the general public.

ICA President, Ivano Barberini, addressed the gathering. Other speakers included Kiyoshi Sasamori, President of the National

Council of Worker's Welfare, Prof. Jun Ikegami, Professor emeritus at Kyoto University, and Mr. Shnichi Hasegawa, director of the ILO in Tokyo.

Mr. Barberini emphasised the need for co-operatives to have appropriate legislation to develop and to be able to compete with the same arsenal as their competitors. The meeting confirmed the need to continue to lobby government for appropriate legislation.

Indian co-operatives promote AIDS awareness

The ICA is collaborating with the Indian Government to promote AIDS awareness in Indian co-operatives.



The programme "to prevent HIV/AIDS and other

sexually transmitted infections through education and training for co-operatives" is a strategy to fight against HIV/AIDS with special emphasis on cooperative members and their community.

The programme will run for

a year and will benefit 240 co-op trainers and 200 leaders who will eventually cover about 37 million coop members in four Indian states. Further information Savitri Singh, Advisor, ICA-AP savitrisingh@icaroap.coop

Management Development in Sri Lanka

Fourteen coop managers had the opportunity to examine their experience, develop their skills and add to their knowledge at a training programme delivered by Co-operative College (UK) at the National Institute for Co-operative Development in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

The Bert Youngjohn Fund made the course possible.

Bert Youngjohn was a co-operator who left a legacy to the Co-operative College to be used for the development of co-operators internationally.

The programme was over subscribed and feedback indicated excellent results. Participants commented that knowledge gained would enable them to build better teams, to improve the productivity of their

organisation, and to achieve the vision and mission of their organisation. Given the demand for places the Co-op College is seeking ways to fund future initiatives. Contact chris@co-op.ac.uk.



Asia-Pacific

New co-op business directory for Vietnam

A new directory of co-operative businesses has been produced by the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA).

The directory provides comprehensive profiles of more than 500 co-operatives and affiliated

companies in Vietnam. Sectors covered include arts and handicrafts, mechanical, plastics, agro-forestry, fishery, manufacturing, consumer and other services.

VCA believe the directory will "act as a bridge connecting Vietnamese co-operatives with their do-

mestic and foreign partners to establish joint venture and co-operative relationships".

Copies of the directory can be obtained from the Centre for Trading and Investment Development in Hanoi, Vietnam. Telephone 844 747 0256 or email cen-trinde@fpt.vn



6th ASEAN Senior Co-operative Management Programme

The 6th annual ASEAN Senior Co-operative Management Programme was held in Singapore in March. Eighteen co-operative leaders and government officials from eight ASEAN countries attended the event, which ran from 28 February - 6 March at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel.

The programme included visits to NTUC Income Co-operative, TCC and Premier Travel Co-operative for a first hand look at the co-operatives and to learn how they have built on their membership strengths. Delegates were impressed by the state-of-the-art man-

agement techniques of the larger co-operatives and the different social roles they perform in caring and sharing with the community at large.

Dialogue sessions with trade union partners and senior executives of Singapore co-operatives allowed for wider interaction and sharing of experiences between the panel and the participants.

The delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore, thanked the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which funded the programme and the Singapore National Co-operative Fed-

eration for having made the programme possible. Some delegates expressed their keen intention to mould their co-operatives after the Singapore model.

A total of 64 participants from nine ASEAN countries have attended this annual week-long programme over the last six years.



Sector - Housing

A roof over our head – spreading the co-operative ideal through housing

Gun-Britt Mårtensson, ICA Board member, member of *ICA Housing* Executive and Chair of HSB: Riksförbund, Sweden discusses the priorities for *ICA Housing* and also gives on the opposite page, the Nordic perspective.



Gun-Britt Mårtensson

“The market is failing to provide decent access to housing for all”

Round table - European economy and social housing (Brussels, 30 March 2006)



Almost all co-operatives have as their starting point a need that has not been met either by the authorities or by the market.

Today, in macro-economic terms we would probably see the birth of a co-operative as a response to a disturbance in the market. Housing is no exception to this rule although the needs look different over time and in different parts of the world. This means that *ICA Housing*, in fulfilling the 6th cooperative principle, “co-operation among co-operatives”, must act in several different arenas.

One key issue is, of course, reaching out to people in developing countries by spreading the idea of co-operative housing. Most members of *ICA Housing* are involved in bi- or multi-

fare, makes it an imperative for all of us to make this possibility available for everyone.

The other key issue is the importance of maintaining and improving the perform-

housing to members and to society. Right now, it is extremely important to raise the visibility of co-operative housing in the European Union where housing, for the first time, is seen as one of the most important is-



ance of housing co-ops already existing and their organisations. As in all parts of the co-operative movement we have to enhance and market the difference between co-operatives and those who try to steal our feathers.

Here *ICA Housing* must take on the role of providing opportunities for idea exchange, collecting good examples for benchmarking and not least, highlighting the economic importance of co-operative

sues for those who wish to fulfil the Lisbon agenda (turning Europe into the most competitive region in the world).

At the recent round table on the European economy and social housing it was said that: “The market is failing to provide decent access to housing for all”.

This means that it is crucial to have the Europeans see that the solution is not social housing in forms of public housing alone but, more importantly, to give people tools to help themselves by saving, building and maintaining their own co-operatives.

lateral projects either by themselves or together with their governments since the knowledge of what co-operative housing has meant in many developed countries, when it comes to dispersing wel-

“Co-operative housing is the only tenure where the social capital and the financial capital are of equal importance and where both make members grow.”

Gun-Britt Mårtensson

The Nordic perspective on co-operative housing

Sector - Housing

In the Nordic countries and especially in Norway and Sweden where co-operative housing has a long tradition and an impact on the housing market we try to focus on a number of areas:

- Getting back to basics by implementing co-operative values in the entire organisation. This means a discussion that includes both elected members and staff as to what the values stand for in their lives and how value is added to members.
- Putting governance issues on the agenda. A code of governance is being adapted (from Co-operatives UK) with contributions from the entire organisation to make sure that there will be personal ownership and implementation of the code.
- Enhancing the co-operative difference both when it comes to the quality of production of new houses and to maintenance in all senses of the word, including social activities.
- Being true to co-operative principle 7, we take part in developing societies regarding not only housing areas but also beauty, integration and long-term sustainability as a common responsibility.



Co-operative housing in Norway

Europe is aging, so focus on housing for elderly is natural. Most people want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible and for housing cooperatives it means that safety and security is a key issue. One of our main objectives is to be able to provide household services when needed by members. Another is to educate volunteers about how co-op members can help take care of each other.

Accessibility, finally, is crucial both for housing cooperatives and for the development of society as a whole. All production and refurbishing of houses must include the issue of accessible hous-

Mike Doyle outlines ICA Housing activities

The next meeting of the ICA Housing Board will take place in Vancouver, Canada, 17-18 June 2006. The meeting coincides with UN Habitat's World Urban Forum III., see item below. In addition to the formal board meeting, a symposium on microfinance and a co-op tour are planned.



Mike Doyle

Ongoing key issues for the housing sector include:

- Housing finance alternatives: finding ways to finance home improvements or to finance new low income housing, continues to be a challenge, especially in countries where government does not have resources to subsidise housing programmes.
- Legal and regulatory issues in developing world: In many countries, especially those of the former Soviet bloc, the laws still do not recognise cooperatives as an entity, or legislation is not consistent.

For more information contact Mike Doyle, President, ICA Housing mdoyle@chfinternational.org or visit www.icahousing.org/ or www.ica.coop/housing

UN Habitat's World Urban Forum to focus on cities

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is an international conference sponsored by UN-HABITAT. It is held every other year to encourage the sharing of knowledge about issues of urban sustainability.

In June 2006, Canada will host the third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) in Vancouver. WUF3 will mark the 30th anniversary of the first UN conference on human settlements, which was also held in Vancouver

and led to the creation of UN-HABITAT.

The ICA has had a long association with UN Habitat. See www.wuf3-fum3.ca/en/home.shtml for more information on the conference.



News about *Global 300* co-operatives



The ICA has commenced the process of regularly monitoring media reports of many of the Global 300 co-operatives. This is part of our project to better understand the issues and trends affecting these co-ops.

For more information, contact

Garry Cronan
cronan@ica.coop

A new communications service will be developed for members

Included below are some recent items from the ICA's new Global 300 monitoring programme.

- Switzerland's largest retail chain the Migros co-operative group has announced an 80 % participation in LeShop SA. Swiss pioneer LeShop.ch becomes the first online grocery pure player in Europe to achieve break-even. [Source](#)
- Fonterra has obtained approval from Chinese regulators for a joint venture with the dairy company San Lu Group. The New Zealand dairy co-operative has called the \$US107 million deal to buy a 43% stake in China's largest maker of milk powder - the biggest-ever foreign investment in the Chinese dairy industry. [Source](#)
- New Zealand's largest supermarket group, Foodstuffs, is boosting its buying power and aggressively expanding in liquor as it lines up against a new rival in Australia's biggest grocer, Woolworths. [Source](#)
- Natexis Banques Populaires and DZ Bank have extended indefinitely their partnership agreement to provide equity research reports and services. [Source](#)
- Desjardins Capital confirmed that \$150 million worth of its shares will be offered for sale through the caisses populaires Desjardins network.
- Danish co-operative Arla Foods said its butter and cheese products are back in 3,000 shops and supermarkets in the Middle East. [Source](#)

New ICA service to be introduced - a listing of key member events, and greater inter-activity on our websites

The ICA is intending to introduce a new communications service for its members.

We will be providing space on our newly developing websites and in other communications for ICA members to list details of their major national activities, such as annual conferences, training programmes and seminar etc.

The idea behind this service is to encourage the exchange of information and experience amongst our members. We will also be providing for far greater inter-activity on our new websites to better enable members to have two way exchanges of information not only with the ICA itself but also with other members. Contact cronan@ica.coop

Planning underway for 2007 ICA General Assembly in Singapore



Preparations have already started for the ICA's next General Assembly in 2007 in Singapore.

The host organisation, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) have been holding meetings to start the long planning process in successfully hosting such a major international event. Meetings have also been held with the ICA's Head Office.

NACF acknowledges that this Event will mark a major milestone for the co-operative movement in the region. Preliminary information on the General Assembly is available from www.icasingapore.coop/

Co-operatives: The Alternative Business Model for Good Governance and Sustainable Development

Europe

From 9-11th November, over 400 European co-operators are expected to convene in the home of the UK's Co-operative Movement – Manchester, for the 2006 Regional Assembly and Cooperative Conference.

“As we continue to witness the downfall of major business conglomerates through fraud and failed governance, this year's theme - *Co-operatives: The Alternative Business Model for Good Governance and Sustainable Development* - has an increasing relevance for future models of economic success with corporate responsibility,” said Rainer Schlüter, Co-operatives Europe director.

The conference program will provide the opportunity for discussions on: good governance; CSR and sustainable development; European co-operatives; building a modern cooperative image; a regional strategy for co-operative development; a multi-stakeholder cooperative model; and inventing the future - a co-operative think tank.

The outcome of the ICA regionalisation debate will help define the future organisation of European cooperatives and the Regional Assembly will make plans for future strategic actions.



There will be opportunities for networking and exchanging models of best practice at the Co-operative and Fair Trade Exhibition, and to stimulate thinking about the topics of the Assembly, Cooperatives Europe will invite contributions for discussion in the members' area of their Website to be published later in a magazine and pamphlet.

Co-operators from all ICA regions are encouraged to attend. Full details can be found at

www.coopseurope.coop/

2005 ICA Africa Annual Report prepared

ICA's African region has recently completed its 2005 annual report.

The “narrative” report cover the period January to December 2005. It notes 2005 stands as the first operational year of

the newly established ICA Africa Regional Office. 2005 has been marked by the continuation of previous programmes initiated by the two former regional offices and the search for a more unified programme for the continent.

It also includes an outline of many of the region's successful co-operative development projects. Contact: s.kibora@icaafrica.coop

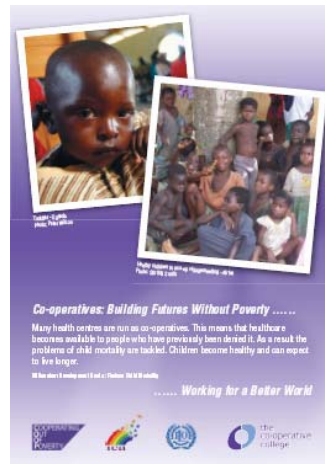
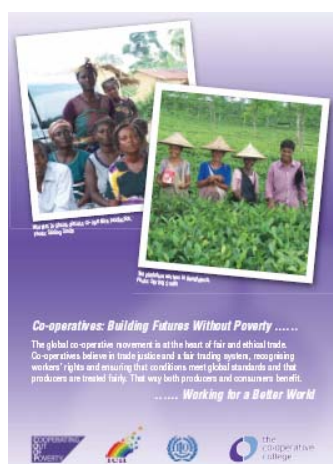


Ada Suleymane Kibora
Director, ICA Africa

New co-operating out of poverty posters available

The UK Co-operative College under the SGA has produced a series of posters on *Co-operating Out of Poverty*.

Copies are available for any forthcoming events at which members feel they would be useful. Contact Amanda Sharp, projects co-ordinator Amanda@co-op.ac.uk



COOPERATING
OUT
OF
POVERTY

New websites

New website launched by CECOP

CECOP is a European Association with its headquarters in Brussels representing producers' co-operatives and co-operatives with worker ownership, as well as other types of worker-controlled enterprises.

Most of those en-

terprises are in industry and services, including social services. Its geographical scope is Europe in the wider definition given by the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe.

CECOP's members include 29 national and regional federations of co-operative and participative enterprises representing around 65 000 enterprises employing 1.3 million workers, and 8 organisations promoting this type of enterprises.

CECOP is the regional organisation of CICOPA (International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives, a sectoral organisation of the ICA) for Europe.

It is also a sectoral organisation of *Co-operatives Europe* (common platform between ICA-Europe and CCACE).

The new website www.cecop.coop is in English and French.



New Swedish Co-operative Centre website for Africa

The Swedish Cooperative Centre Regional Office for Southern Africa launched its new website www.sccrosa.org on April 20.



SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE

The new site is aimed at strengthening the presence of SCC as a major player in development initiatives in

the region.

The website provides visitors with information on the development work that is being undertaken by SCC ROSA in co-operation with its partners in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar.

The website will eventually be integrated into a

new global SCC website, where both SCC and partners from other regions in the world will come together, presenting their work and developments on the ground.



New books

Review - Global citizenship

"...this new book examines, in part, the interaction between co-operative ideas and practice..."

The Robert Owen Association (ROA) has published a new volume titled *The Emergence of Global Citizenship: Utopian Ideas, Co-operative Movements and the Third Sector*.

The publication in three parts examines: implications of Utopian ideas and schemes; interaction between co-operative ideas and practices; and the third sector in the era of globalisation.

Contributors include: Greg-

ory Claeys, Rita Rhodes, Roger Spear and Johnston Birchall (UK), Antoine Hatzenberger (France), Hans Muenkner (Germany), M. V. Madane (India), Ian MacPherson (Canada) and Deborah Steinhoff (USA).

The editors are Chushichi Tsuzuki, Naobumi Hijikata and Akira Kurimoto.

ROA was established in 1958 as an association of scholars and practitioners interested in studying Uto-

pian ideas and co-operative practices. The association published its first volume in English, Robert Owen and the World of Co-operation, in 1992.

This volume is available by request from the ROA Secretariat. Please contact ccij@jccu.co-op (Price \$17 (US) plus postage).

International 10-day course on: *Effective co-operative management* to be held in Israel

Education

The International Centre for Co-operative Studies (ICECOS) and The Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development, NISPED from Israel and the UK based Unit for Membership Based Organisations in the Management Centre, University of Leicester, (UMBO), are combining to offer a 10 day international course on effective co-operative management.

The course will be held

in Beer Sheva, in southern Israel, 10-19 July 2006.

The academic programme will be supervised by Dr. Peter Davis, Director of UMBO and Dr. Yehudah Paz, Chair of NISPED, and former member of the Board of the ICA, - and current Chair of its Global HRD Committee.

The course organisers note "The challenges of globalisation constitute the critical context for the management of co-

operatives, whether large or small. Preparing co-operative managers, volunteers, staff and board members for the challenges and the opportunities created by globalisation is the primary focus of this course.

For more details see www.nisped.org.il where you can also fill in an application form for the course. Note applications close 15 May 2006.



Latest CIRIEC journal looks at CSR

Research



The journal CIRIEC-España, *revista de economía pública, social y cooperativa*, a scientific journal published by the CIRIEC, has just posted the articles from its number 53, issue on 'Social economy and corporate social responsibility' to its website, see <http://revistascidec.uv.es>

"CIRIEC-España" is a

Spanish Latin-American review. Its research field ranges over enterprises which aim is to serve to the general benefit, in particular, public and social economy – the last one mostly composed of co-operatives, labour-managed enterprises, mutuals, foundations and associations. Most works published are in Spanish, but some special issues and all of

the abstracts are in English and French.

On its site you can find full texts of articles, accessible free of charge, as well as other information in English, as the instructions to authors and our editorial board. Also available are links to databases where "CIRIEC-España" is indexed,

Contact ciriec@uv.es



First meeting of European Social Press in Paris

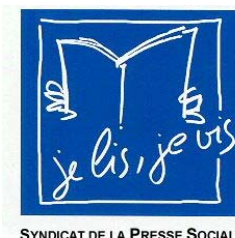
Media

The first European meeting of the Social Press, held on 27 March in Paris, was convened in order to develop an open relationship between the representatives of this specific form of press in other European countries.

Published by mutual insurance companies, co-operatives, trade unions and associations, the social press is a press of opinion, independent and influential. Beyond its function of social information, it fulfils a mission of public utility, solidarity and mutual aid.

The meeting was organised by the Syndicat de la Presse Sociale to represent and defend the interests of 130 publishers, which edit 165 publications reaching about 20 million readers.

For more information see www.sps.fr/



Sector Tourism



Maurizio Davolio

Co-operatives naturally suited to fair tourism

Recently, Maurizio Davolio, chair of the ICA's global tourism organisation, TICA spoke at the International Forum on Fair Tourism and Trade held in Chiapas, Mexico. Below is a brief extract of the presentation he made.

"The development of fair trade and responsible tourism is a natural development as the co-operative movement interprets new trends in the economics of solidarity. .. In my country, Italy, Legacoop has enthusiastically participated in the setting up of AITR, the Italian Association for Responsible Tourism. Other tourist co-operatives which are members of Confcooperative, are also members of AITR....In the field of travel agencies, in Italy (Robintur, Nuova Planetario), Spain (Eroski) and the United Kingdom (Travelcare) demand is increasing for travel and holidays which respect criteria for sustainability, in economic, environmental and social terms. In Italy, 41 agencies in the co-operative field adhere to initiatives of Agenzia Amica (Friendly Agencies) which respect higher standards in levels of organisation, professionalism and ethics. It is co-operatives which are promoting experience in community based tourism in Italy ...

For more, contact mdavo@tin.it

People



Cristina Simone

Cristina Simone is leaving the ICA

With the closure of ICA's Project Office in Buenos Aires (POBA), the ICA is also saying farewell to Cristina Simone who is leaving her post as office director. With her departure, the ICA is losing a dedicated and hard working staff member.

Cristina joined the ICA in 1990 with the opening of the office. In August 1992 she was appointed office representative and has been in charge of the office since. A committed co-operator, Cristina has been a valued and hard working member of the ICA team. During her tenure, POBA has implemented a number of important project initiatives. The Tierra del Fuego self sustainable associative development project was a joint project with the Institute for Co-operative studies, University of Helsinki. The investment fund for the development and consolidation of co-operative enterprises, and a programme to support enterprises in crisis which has now become a national programme are other initiatives that have kept her busy. For many years a regional CICOPA programme was also implemented through POBA, and the office also served the ICA Banking Committee for Latin America. The office has throughout this period enjoyed the support of COOPERA of Argentina.

Cristina will continue her life long commitment to the co-operative movement through her work with telephone co-operatives that will now benefit from her vast experience and knowledge. Her friends at the ICA wish her all the best in her new career.

Obituary



Mohamed Idris

Leading Egyptian agricultural co-operator dies

Mr. Mohamed Idris, the last President of Central Agricultural Cooperative Union of Egypt (CACU) died on Friday 21 April 2006.

Mohamed Idris was born in 1931. After joining the Board of Potato Growers Co-op in 1970, he gained experience working in the co-operative movement working at the national and international levels. Mr Idris was General Secretary of the Co-operative Union of Egypt. He was also General Secretary and then President of ICA member, the Central Agricultural Co-operative Union. He was also General Secretary of the Arab Agricultural Co-operative Union and Chair of the Standing Committee of International Co-operative Relations of Egypt.

Mr Idris was involved in ICAO activities since 1984 as well as being Vice President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), the President of IFAP's African Farmers' Committee. He was also behind the initiative for setting up the ICA Office for North Africa and the Arab World in 1998.

Domain creates brand awareness



In his report to members, Director-General, Ian Macdonald, emphasises the need for the co-operative movement to promote its successes. A healthy self-image is fundamental, the message is simple, says Ian Macdonald: "Co-operatives mean business!"

Around the world, co-operatives are helping to create brand awareness with a deceptively simple, cost-effective marketing tool - the .coop domain.

"A .coop domain tells the world you are a co-operative," says Paul Hazen, president and CEO of NCBA, the US peak body which won approval for the co-operative-only .coop Internet address five years ago. Hazen says emphasising this difference is critical at a time when credit unions and other co-ops are coming under increasing attack from competitors. According to Dan Mica,

president and CEO of the Credit Union National Association, "Credit unions have a great marketing opportunity with the .coop Internet address. We can show consumers the difference between credit unions and banks in a simple and powerful way."

Five years ago .coop was one of only seven new domain names selected to join .com, .org and .net. Whilst domains exist for industries, countries and institutions, .coop is the only domain for enterprises characterised by their form of business.

"This is a privileged position which we need to exploit," explains Hazen. "Because we verify all applicants for the domain name (.coop domains are available exclusively to co-operatives and co-op organisations), we guarantee that they are an enterprise with a minimum standard of

economic and social benefit. The domain allows us to link all these thousands of co-operative organisations and businesses together with a clear identity."

More than 4,000 organisations worldwide now use .coop for their web addresses. This means they are also automatically included on www.directory.coop/ the largest online global directory of co-operatives. "It's a great resource for those working in co-ops," says Hazen.

Many also use .coop for e-

"A .coop domain tells the world you are a co-operative, offering better services and giving consumers a choice in the marketplace,"

*Paul Hazen,
president and
CEO, NCBA*



Ann Arbor's cooperative natural foods store and café...serving our community since 1971.

People's Food Co-op

mail and in their marketing. From industry leaders such as [Touchstone Energy](http://www.touchstoneenergy.coop/) to local co-ops such as [People's Food Co-op](http://www.peoplesfoodcoop.org/), in Ann Arbor, Michigan .coop domains have given co-operatives a new community on the Internet.

.coop branding

NCBA surveys have revealed that 40% of the US adult population 'understand' what co-operatives stand for.

This is at odds with the 60% who are co-operative members, so there's a definite case for working to educate members about the social and economic benefits of co-operatives. .Coop is a way to help this

process. "We are working to raise the profile of co-operatives around the world through .coop. It is a great opportunity for co-operatives to promote their co-operative difference -- to differentiate their member-owned businesses from a sea of .coms and .orgs," Hazen concludes. The highest uptake for the domain has been in the US and UK



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

"We can show consumers the difference between credit unions and banks in a simple and powerful way,"

Dan Mica, president and CEO, CUNA

but there is high hope for growth in Europe as well.

Feature interview

Paul Hazen, President NCBA, USA

Paul Hazen, President and CEO of National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) www.ncba.coop is a man "with co-operatives in my blood" and a passion for "the economic and social benefits of the co-operative business model". From, Washington DC, Paul spoke to the **Digest** about the co-operative movement in North America.

Digest: How did you get involved in the co-operative movement?

PH: I hail from the State of Wisconsin, where there are more co-operatives than any other state, so I grew up with



Paul Hazen
CEO, NCBA and ICA
Board member

co-operatives in my blood.

Every public school student in the fourth and tenth grades must be taught about co-ops, so I learned about them from an early age.

My home village is small and so whenever the community needed something we would all work together to achieve our goal; co-operation was a necessity.

Following an economics degree from the University

of Wisconsin, I worked for Al Baldus, a member of the Democratic Party representing my home district in the US Congress. Co-operatives were his political base and so I attended many co-operative meetings and met many co-operative leaders, and soon I was hooked.

My first job in co-operatives was manager of the co-operative housing development organisation.

Digest: What does your current work with the NCBA involve?

PH: I am the President and CEO of NCBA, the leading national co-operative membership association in the United States. I have worked for NCBA for 18 years, six years as CEO. NCBA's mission is to "develop, advance and protect co-operative enterprise". 2006 is NCBA's 90th anniversary and the organisation has a rich history.

NCBA's goal is to make it possible for every person to have the opportunity to be a member of a co-operative. Today 60% of the adult population in the US is a member of a co-operative. We have 40,000 co-operatives in our country and, conservatively, 500 000 co-operative employees. We are working toward the day when all of our citizens are members of a co-operative.

I am fortunate to lead an organisation that is dedicated to improving the lives of people

in the US and around the world. I work with a 40-person board to set the strategic direction for the organisation, establish policies and budgets. I am also the chief fundraiser for NCBA ensuring that the organisation is able to carry out its mission and programmes.

I am also the chief executive for DotCoop Registry, the sponsor of .coop. We are working to raise the profile of co-operatives around the world through .coop. It is a great opportunity for co-operatives to promote their co-operative difference on their web site address and e-mails. DotCoop is the most cost effective marketing tool available to co-operatives. (More on DotCoop in our article overleaf)

Digest: In your view, what are the priorities for the movement at home and globally?

PH: NCBA has three strategic priorities for co-operatives.

Firstly, 'The Case', we are working to increase the research capacity on the co-operative business model. We've secured \$500,000 from our Federal Government to gather basic statistics on co-operatives that will allow us to demonstrate the economic and social impact of co-operatives.



Paul Hazen interview...continued

Secondly, 'The Money', our goal is to ensure that co-operatives are able to access enough capital to grow and expand to meet member needs. NCBA has brought together co-operative leaders from all sectors to develop a long-range capital strategy.

And thirdly, 'The Dog', NCBA is building a grass roots advocacy network of key leaders that can work together to protect the co-operative business model.

Co-operatives are increasing under attack in our Congress and we are assembling a network of people that advocate for cooperative

in the last 12 or so months. We used to take the approach that co-operatives were an alternative to other modes of business. Now we're in a more pro-active phase with our message.

We're saying co-operatives are a better business model and here's the data to prove it. The Federal commitment of funds for research represents a good level of bipartisan support from government. It's a recognition that there needs to be hard data from economic research, to demonstrate the economic and social value of cooperatives.

Also, for a long time there's

PH: NCBA has been a member of the ICA since we were founded in 1916.

We believe that international co-operation is the best way to build world peace and working through the ICA, billions of people around the world can work together because we share the same co-operative

Feature Interview



NCBA gives co-ops a unified voice on capital hill



Paul Hazen "testifying." at an recent administrative hearing at the U.S. Agriculture Department. The subject - the need for co-operative research.

business. This third priority is about working together to advocate and promote for coops. If you think about a junkyard dog, it's someone who will fight for your corner and is prepared to sink their teeth into it. But it's something we must do globally.

Digest: Is this a good time for co-operatives in your region?

PH: Co-ops are on the rebound in the states. It's a positive phase of repositioning the co-op as a better economic model.

The NCBA has shifted focus

been a myth in the US that rugged individualism built this country. This is not true. People working together built this country and cooperative endeavour was a big part of this.

People in the US are recognising we're part of this global economy so it's a good time to combat this myth of individualism and reassert the message that people working together is the best business model.

Digest: Why is it important that the American movement is involved in the international co-operative movement?

principles and values. Just last year the NCBA Board renewed our commitment to the ICA and pledged to pay our full country dues and increase our involvement.

NCBA believes that a key to building world peace is promoting co-operative development around the world. We operate projects in 20 developing countries.

It is also important for US co-operatives to work together to make the case for co-operatives through efforts like the **Global 300** Project.

"For a long time there's been a myth in the US that rugged individualism built this country. This is not true.

People working together built this country and co-operative endeavour was a big part of this."

Paul Hazen

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 your
ICA membership
subscription should
have been paid by
31 March 2006.
Contact
chavez@ica.coop*

[Click here further 2006
ICA and related
events.....\)](#)

Copies of the ICA
Digest are archived
on the ICA's web-
site www.ica.coop

2006 Calendar of ICA events and related co-operative activities

3-4 May	ICA Board meeting, Washington, DC, USA. Contact: Iain Macdonald, macdonald@ica.coop
11-12 May	Seminar on Encouraging International Co-operative Business in the ICA Americas region, San José, Costa Rica. Contact: Manuel Mariño direccion@aciamericas.coop
12 May	ACFSMC/ILO Employment Meeting plus meeting of Asia Pacific Standing Committee
15 May	ICA Governance Working Group meeting. Contact: Garry Cronan cronan@ica.coop
15-26 May	Co-operative policy and law seminar, ILO International Training Centre, Turin, Italy. See http://learning.itcilo.org/entdev/coop/
18-19 May	COPA - COGECA Seminar, Reinforcing Agricultural Co-operatives in the New Member States, Brussels, Belgium. Contact: grazyna.las@copa-cogeca.be
23-24 May	Seminar on Influence of the co-operative sector in the development of the Public Policies in Latin America, Panama. Contact: incidencia@aciamericas.coop
24-27 May	4th Annual International Youth Conference, Manchester, UK. Contact, UK Co-op College, Mervyn Wilson, mervyn@co-op.ac.uk
17-19 June	Peace and Co-operation Workshop, Vancouver, Canada. Contact Ian MacPherson, cluny@uvvm.uvic.ca
21 June	International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) Board meeting, Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: direccion@fundacionespriu.coop
1 July	International Day of Co-operatives (celebrated on the first Saturday of July every year)
17-21 July	ICA Americas Regional Assembly, Lima, Peru. Contact: Manuel Mariño, direccion@aciamericas.coop
17 July	ICA Americas, IV Meeting of Parliamentarians, Lima, Peru. Contact: banca@aciamericas.coop
19 July	ICA Americas Women meeting, Lima, Peru. Contact: genero@aciamericas.coop
19 July	ICA Americas, Youth meeting. Contact: genero@aciamericas.coop
19 July	ICA Americas, Universities Network meeting. Contact: genero@aciamericas.coop
27-30 July	2006 World Credit Union Conference, Dublin, Ireland. See www.woccu.coop/
14 Aug	Meeting of Regional Co-operative Banking Association for Asia-Pacific, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Contact: Shil-Kwan Lee, sklee@icaroap.coop
17 Aug	ICA Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum, Contact: Shil-Kwan Lee, sklee@icaroap.coop
18 Aug	7th ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Contact: Shil-Kwan Lee, sklee@icaroap.coop
22-23 Aug	ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Research Conference, Colombia. Sri Lanka. Contact: Akira Kurimoto, akira.kurimoto@jccu.coop
2-6 Oct	ICA Africa Regional Assembly, Arusha, Tanzania. Contact: Ada Suleymane Kibora, skibora@icaafrica.coop
19-22 Oct	ICA Research Conference, Dourdan, France. Contact: Caroline Naett cnaett@entreprises.coop or Yohanan Stryjan Yohanan.Stryjan@sh.se
25-29 Oct	International Economic and Social Forum , Lyon, France. Contact: Jacques Terrenoire,
6-8 Nov	Gender Integration in co-operatives -- 10 Years before and after", Tagaytay City, Philippines. Contact: Savitri Singh, savitrisingh@icaroap.coop
8 Nov	Meeting of the ICA Communications Committee, Manchester, UK. Contact: Garry Cronan, cronan@ica.coop
9-10 Nov	ICA Europe Regional Assembly, Manchester, UK. Contact: Rainer Schluter, rschluter@coopseurope.coop