



ICA Digest

Issue 49

June 2006

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www.ica.coop

ICA launches new online news service



The ICA has launched a new website for co-operative news.

The site www.icanews.coop was previewed, prior to launch, at the recent ICA Board meeting in Washington.

ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald has welcomed the news site as part of the

ICA's current drive to provide relevant, timely and value added services to our members.

"We hope our members will welcome this news aggregation and analysis service, and we look forward to working with them to ensure the success of this initiative" he said.

See full details inside.

See our special two page feature on our new websites - pages 10-11

ICA's website re-designed and re-launched

The news service is not the only website the ICA is launching.

Also previewed at the last ICA Board meeting was the latest redesign of the ICA main website at www.ica.coop.

The ICA's website contains over 600 pages of information, many thousands of links and records over 300,000 hits every month.

The changes are designed to provide a more modern, user-friendly feel for the many thousands of visitors to our site.

Taken together these two sites demonstrate the commitment the ICA is making to improving its online communications activities.

See our special two page feature on the websites on pages 10-11.

Visit both of our new websites:

www.ica.coop

www.icanews.coop

From the editor's desk



Garry Cronan
Editor

Welcome to the forty-ninth edition of the ICA **Digest**.

This month our issue has a decidedly communications flavour. Our lead item is on the launch of two new ICA websites. This is the first stage of further upgrades to our online services - we hope they will prove of value to you.

We also take this opportunity to introduce the new assistant editors of the **Digest**. Next month we will be making further announcements about the

Digest, including the proposed Arabic and Chinese editions.

The recent round of meetings in Washington is reported on as are a number of recent member conferences and upcoming events.

Natural disasters seem to be occurring with increasing regularity. We carry a brief item of the latest earthquake in Indonesia and also report on the progress of the ICA co-operative reconstruction work following the Asian tsunami.

Our feature interview this month is with Alban D'Amours. He suggests a number of possible priority areas for the ICA including a greater emphasis on co-operative business success and the need for better co-operative statistics. Both of these points are picked up in our **Global 300** reports.

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

Garry Cronan

cronan@ica.coop

Communications

Meet the new Digest staff

As mentioned in the last issue of the **Digest** the editor now has some part-time assistance.

Suzanne Henderson and Melina Morrison are already starting to make their presence felt. Suzanne who is based in Sydney, Australia and Melina who is based in London, UK join a virtual network of part-time ICA assistants spread throughout the world.

Suzanne Henderson is editor of Community Co-operative Connections (CCC eNews) reporting on the latest co-operative information from Australia

and around the world. CCC eNews is published bi-monthly by the University of Technology Sydney's Centre for Australian Community Organisations and Management (CACOM). She is the Australian delegate on the ICA's International Communications Committee (ICACC).

From 2001 - 2004 as Communications and Marketing Manager at the Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development, and editor of ACCORD NEWS, she encouraged and promoted a greater awareness and understanding of the merits

of co-operative and mutual enterprise.

Tasmanian born, Melina Morrison lives in London with her husband and daughter where she makes documentary and drama films.

She is a staff writer and editor of CCC e-News newsletter.

Formerly she was the publicist for CREATE Australia, the national vocational education and training body for the arts. Melina is a consultant with PR company, Sommerson Communications.



Suzanne Henderson



Melina Morrison

Co-operatives in Indonesia affected by latest earthquake

The recent earthquake which struck central Indonesia near Yogyakarta has left a death toll approaching 6,000 and with tens of thousands more injured and left homeless. The **Digest** will carry a fuller report next issue, but please note that ICA members, [Canadian Co-operative Association](#), and the [National Cooperative Business Association](#) of the USA have both commenced appeals to assist. Also, the ICA's Asia Pacific region will be shortly launching an appeal. Contact ICA's Regional Director, Shil-Kwan Lee sklee@icaroap.coop.

Appeals

Visits to two of the world's largest co-operative movements

I don't suppose you can visit two more important countries than USA and China. But that is where I have been in the last month -- indeed only one week separated the two visits.



These days what you notice most I think, are the similarities as opposed to the differences. Indeed the main difference now is, I suspect, the physical size of people - a question of diet perhaps! But in both countries there is a recognisable vibrancy in the streets where economic and social progress is clearly evident. And this is reflected in the co-operative movements as well with both the American and Chinese movements in good heart.

In the last *Digest* I emphasised the slogan co-operatives mean business and this is what describes what is happening in these two countries. We are working closer and closer with our American colleagues particularly in the areas of increasing membership and providing more relevant services to those members. One of the most impressive parts of the American movement is the sheer size of the co-operative share of the utilities market. That I hope is going to translate into a new energy/environment

sector for ICA -- perhaps the one area of activity which is currently lacking in our structure. For many people this is the main activity which we should be emphasising. The Americans are also very inter-

ested in working with us on the **Global 300** project and the idea of bringing CEO's together on a regular basis as we did in Italy last month.

And that is where the Chinese come in. They are no less interested in our business oriented approach, indeed possibly more so. Nowhere is there a more dramatically growing economy and it is very important that we help our Chinese colleagues in building the co-operative movement especially at a time when many state enterprises are moving to the private sector. Given the Chinese government's commitment to market socialism, it seems to me a very fertile time to emphasise the special role that co-operation can play and shows how cooperative enterprise can provide all the commercial acumen which the private sector provides - without forgetting the social aspect which is not exactly the forte of that sector! Speaking at the International Agriculture Co-operation Economic Conference organised by our

friends in the All China Federation of Marketing and Supply Co-operatives in Wuxi, I emphasised that very point. Along with an exhibition on modern agricultural methods, this conference fitted in very well with the UN/ILO/ICA expert group meeting on co-operatives and employment in Shanghai. My contribution emphasised the importance of linking with the WTO and influencing its policies from a co-operative point of view. Other contributions were from China, New Zealand and India.

So I would suggest the next CEO forum should be in China! There will be no difficulty in persuading our American colleagues of the importance of the Chinese market, and I suspect that would apply to many other members.

There is no doubt that the Chinese and US co-operative movements mean business!



From left, Teo Say Hong, youth delegate, Seah Kian Peng, ICA Board member, NTUC, Fairprice, Singapore; Mu Li, ICA Board member, Vice President ICA Asia Pacific, ACFSMC, China, Iain Macdonald, ICA Director-General; Ian Reid, Executive Director, New Zealand Co-operatives Association and Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia Pacific

DG's monthly report



Iain Macdonald
Director-General

"I would suggest that the next ICA CEO Forum be held in China"

Iain Macdonald

ICA Board

Washington Board meeting

The most recent ICA Board was held in Washington, DC, USA on 3-4 May 2006.



Ivano Barberini, Iain Macdonald and Maria Elena Chavez Hertig at the Washington Board meeting

Regionalisation was again the main focus of the meeting. A special report on the main decisions relating to regionalisation is provided opposite on page 5.

The work of the Regionalisation Working Group and the Governance Working Group are closely related.

We report on the forthcoming special Board strate-

gic planning meeting in Stockholm in September. The Governance Working Group will be responsible for organising this special meeting, see its report below.

A related governance matter concerns Africa. The Washington Board meeting included a report on possible future options for ICA's African region. We carry a separate report on this.

A range of other matters were also decided or noted at the meeting including:

- Mu Li is standing down as ICA Vice President for Asia, see related report on page 7.
- The ICA President sent a letter to the Brazilian parliament with regard to a possible threat to co-operative legislation.
- A discussion on co-operative legislation will take place at the Board in December 2006.
- Pauline Green was re-elected as one of ICA's

representatives on the Dotcoop board (DCLLC).

- A President's Committee meeting will be held before the end of July 2006.
- A special report will be given to the next meeting on the **Global 300** project.
- The audited accounts for 2005 were approved and the report for the first quarter 2006 was noted. The Board also agreed to investigate other forms of auditing standards.
- A full Board meeting would be held in Stockholm on 6-7 September 2006 following the strategic planning meeting.
- The December board meeting would be held in Trento, Italy on 7-8 December 2006.
- Several new members were approved and some requests for withdrawal were approved.

The current ICA Board is one of the busiest in recent history - it has scheduled four Board meetings this year, plus a special strategic planning meeting.



From left, Pauline Green, Gun-Britt Mårtensson and Gianna Perra, considering agenda items at the Washington Board meeting

Preparations for strategic planning meeting underway

Governance

The Governance Working Group (GWG) has commenced the process of organising the ICA Board's global strategic planning meeting. It was one of the GWG's main recommendations that the global Board hold a special strategic planning meeting during 2006.

The first strategic planning meeting will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 4-5 September 2006. The objective is to develop a common global vision, programme and strategic planning and reporting framework for the ICA. The strategic planning meeting will include representatives from the global Board, members of the GWG, sectoral representatives and senior ICA staff. The meeting will be facilitated by an external strategic planning expert familiar with the co-operative movement. Contact: Garry Cronan cronan@ica.coop

Main points agreed by Board on regionalisation

Regionalisation

The Washington Board meeting approved the report from the Regionalisation Working Group (RWG). In particular the RWG report contained recommendations on the four issues it was asked to consider. These four areas provide a framework within which the various constituent parts of the ICA including the Regional Assemblies to be held later this year will consider the issue of regionalisation generally, and the European situation in particular.

The Washington Board decisions provide a framework within which the constituent bodies of the ICA can further debate this issue during 2006

1. Legal

- at this stage only in Europe should there be a change in legal status
- emphasis is made on the global authority that is ICA but that each region could have its own specific identity within this authority;
- a review of the ICA Rules and Standing Orders will be necessary to consider decisions taken at Regional Assemblies and to ensure there is one overall global legal framework into which all regions should fit

2. Roles

- a very disciplined approach to be taken to prepare a successful strategic meeting in Stockholm, on 4-7 September 2006, which would also include sectoral organisations
- that head office, regional offices and sectoral organisations should be asked to prioritise their existing roles and functions for input to Stockholm
- to accept the agreed basis for roles and functions
- to emphasise the role of the sectors in this exercise and to avoid competition and duplication

3. Membership

- that there be two types of ICA members, full and associate, with regional and sectoral members being part of associate. Only those not eligible for full membership could normally be considered for associate
- further consideration should be given to National Co-operative Movement and Sector/Type subscription formula options and reported back to the board

4. Finance

- to operate a four-year multi-annual planning process, with a strategic budgetary review every two years. Annual budgets would continue to operate within that process
- to continue with a revised solidarity system
- to collect global subscriptions centrally by head office and in close association with regions and possibly sectors

The Governance Working Group is continuing with its survey of members on regionalisation and other governance matters.

Contact: Bruno Roelants, BRoelants@compuserve.com

The next steps

The ICA Board meeting also instructed the Regionalisation Working Group to give, together with the Governance Working Group, particular and immediate attention to:

- preparing statutes for transforming *Co-operatives Europe* into ICA's European region
- developing a clear proposal on membership subscription criteria
- prioritising roles and functions
- preparing recommendations on these issues to be considered by the special Board meeting to be held in Stockholm on 6-7 September 2006

Work is currently proceeding on the drafting of new statutes for *Co-operatives Europe*

International Expert group meeting on co-ops and employment

An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on *Co-operatives and Employment* was held in Shanghai, China from 15-19 May 2006.

It was organised by UN/DESA and ILO, and hosted by the All China Federation

Ivano Barberini, ICA President, spoke of the need for greater vigilance as “we are in the marketplace” being shaped by globalisation, hence the active role of co-operatives in job creation and in contributing towards fair globalisation is essential.”

As a matter of fact, co-ops have created more jobs as compared to many large corporations worldwide, but we need to focus more on creating jobs for the poor and the disadvantaged.

Mr. Barberini also chaired one session on the Focus Group Discussions Roundup, alongside Donald Lee from UN/DESA.

Focus Groups were formed to discuss four key issues, namely (a) Co-operatives, Job Creation in Rural and Urban Areas, including the Informal Economy, (b) Co-operatives and Fair Globalisation, (c) Co-operatives and Equal Employment opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, Women and Youth, and (d) Co-operatives and Job Creation in Post-Conflict and Crisis Situations.

Various case studies were presented. The Mondragon

case study on large industrial co-ops on the one hand, and social co-operatives in Italy on the other, are examples of how sharply distinctive co-operative sectors can be in serving communities in need.

Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice President of ACFSMC addressed the meeting explaining the historical mission of co-ops in employment promotion and protection.

He emphasised the unique advantages of linking farmers with the market, and the countryside with the cities, through which the ACFSMC unite farmers as producers and promote and defend rural employment.

Robby Tulus, ICA special envoy (post-Tsunami in Aceh) presented case studies on Indigenous Peoples' Co-operatives in the Philippines and India. He spoke about the complexity of human-induced conflicts and post-disaster environments, and how indigenous peoples are potential contributors to the local economy by forming strong self-reliant co-operatives.

Recommendations on specific issues discussed in the four focus groups, as well as the distinct roles of partners will shortly be published and circulated by the ILO.



of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives. Over 40 experts/participants attended from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Egypt, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, USA, Canada, and five international organizations, namely UN/DESA, ILO, FAO, ICA and WOCCU.

Dr Ian MacPherson in his paper to the conference stated “co-operative contribution to job creation and community development is often underestimated and taken for granted”.

“co-operative contribution to job creation ... is often underestimated and taken for granted”

Ian MacPherson



**COOPERATING
OUT
OF
POVERTY**

Fight global poverty – renewed call to action

160 delegates from 80 countries agreed to a new Call to Action against Poverty for 2006/07 at the Future of GCAP (Global Call to Action Against Poverty) recent meeting in Beirut.

Delegates agreed to pressure governments to eradicate poverty, dramatically

lessen inequality, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The core demands of the new campaign are: public accountability; just governance and the fulfilment of human rights; trade justice, a major increase in the quantity and quality of aid and financing for develop-

ment; debt cancellation and gender equality.

It was also agreed to have one global joint mobilisation in 2006 - a month of action starting on 16th September and culminating in the White Band Day on October 17th.

ICA Asia-Pacific Standing Committee Meeting

Regions: Asia-Pacific



The ICA's Asia-Pacific Standing Committee met in Wuxi, China on 16 May 2006.

Members from China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka attended the meeting which was chaired by Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

The meeting congratulated Seah Kian Peng, a member of the Standing Committee who has recently become a Member of Parliament in Singapore.

The Committee considered

a report from Iain Macdonald on the Regionalisation Working Group which was adopted by the recent Washington Board meeting, see report page 5.

Among other matters discussed were the future development of the ICA's Business Office in Singapore.

A youth delegate was invited to attend the Standing Committee. Teo Say Hong, from Singapore expressed thanks on behalf of the youth network for the invitation. He appealed to the Standing Committee members to send at least one

youth delegate to the next Youth Conference to be held in Colombo on 15th August 2006. He then presented the draft Constitution of ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation for Asia-Pacific which was subsequently adopted with some minor changes. It will now go to the forthcoming Asia Pacific Regional Assembly for approval.

Mu Li, from ACFSMC and the current ICA Asia Pacific Vice President advised the meeting that he was no longer involved in co-operative matters. Li Chunsheng from ACFSMC was nominated to replace Mu Li as ICA Vice President.

Photo shows members of the ICA Asia Pacific Standing Committee

Mr. Mu Li has resigned as ICA Vice President - he has been replaced by Mr. Li Chunsheng

Regions: Europe

Expanding .COOP brand in Europe

Cooperatives Europe is progressing a development platform for the promotion and use of the dotCOOP domain name.

A common understanding was reached at a recent meeting of potential partners of the development platform, that dotCOOP should be a strategic tool for enhancing the visibility and image of co-operative enterprises across Europe.

It was further agreed that any future development platform would have two distinct features – 1) political promotion and 2) the

commercial promotion of allied IT products or services. The partners would have the prime responsibility for the implementation and realisation of the platform's development programme. The platform will have its own legal identity and will establish network groups for back-office administration for the selling of domain names, the political promotion of the dotCOOP brand, and the development of commercial IT products and services.

The platform will, in association with [Midcounties Co-operative](http://www.midcounties.co-operative) become a virtual



reseller of the dotCOOP domain name for the European region.

Pilot national reseller programmes will be implemented this summer in the Czech Republic and in the Andalusia region of Spain.

For further information contact: Ray Collins, at Cooperatives Europe <http://coopseurope.coop/sommaire.php3?lang=en>



Region: Africa



ICA Board establishes a Commission for Africa

At its recent meeting in early May in Washington, the ICA Board decided to establish a Commission to oversee the restructuring of ICA in Africa. The Commission is a sub-committee of the Board.

The decision to establish the Commission was reached after a discussion of a report on the ICA in Africa.

The report and the decision

should be seen in the context of the current process of regionalisation of the ICA.

The Commission will propose recommendations aimed at improving services to members and the development of co-operative enterprise in Africa. In addition to reviewing the current role, function and structure of the ICA in Africa, the Commission should also review the resources required to fulfil

its statutory role, to retain a meaningful members service delivery, to remain a relevant development partner and contribute to the empowerment of co-operatives in Africa. The work of the Commission has already started with a planning and review meeting recently held in Nairobi. The Commission will report to the General Assembly in Singapore in 2007.



Farmers Fighting Poverty Conference in the Netherlands

On 31 May and 1 June, ICA will participate in a conference in Arnhem organised by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The theme of the conference is "[Farmers Fighting Poverty](#)". Agriterra is a Dutch organisation whose goal is to promote, facilitate and support lasting co-operation linkages between rural peo-

ple's organisations in the Netherlands and in developing countries. Agriterra co-operates with rural people's organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe.

Development co-operation does not occur through governments or intermediaries, but is direct: from farmer to farmer, from rural woman to

rural woman, from co-operative society to co-operative society. ICA's regional office for Asia-Pacific is currently implementing a programme funded by Agriterra on strengthening agricultural co-operatives in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.



Peace

Conference on co-operatives and peace, University of Victoria, BC, Canada 18-20 June

The British Columbia Institute of Co-operative Studies (BCICS) and ICA will co-host an international workshop and conference exploring the theme: *Co-operatives in the Pursuit of Peace*.

Presentations will examine the role of co-operatives in promoting social cohe-

sion at the international, national, and local level. ICA President, Ivano Barberini, and Director-General, Iain Macdonald, are amongst co-operative leaders from around the world speaking at the event.

The conference has been limited to 35 participants to ensure adequate time for discussions and the preparation of recommendations on how co-ops can contribute to more peaceful relations

within communities and across nations. Organisers expect to prepare a number of publications from this event. If you are interested in submitting an article for consideration in the publications, please send a message to: peaceco@uvic.ca or to Joy Emmanuel, the conference organiser: joybcics@uvic.ca. To download the conference program <http://web.uvic.ca/bcics/>



Co-operatives and peace building is the theme of the 2006 International Day of Co-operatives to be celebrated on Saturday 1 July 2006. The ICA will be shortly distributing this year's message to members and other interested organisations.

Post Tsunami Interventions in India completed in record time

One of the greatest challenges for the ICA Asia-Pacific (ICA AP) in 2005 was to face the destruction caused by the Tsunami in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

The ICA at global, regional (Asia-Pacific) level along with partner organisations sought, with the generous help of donations from members, to address the needs of co-operatives affected by the tsunami.

ICA AP in collaboration with the national apex co-operative organisations in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka carried out an in-depth study of the damages caused by tsunami and provided technical support in designing co-operative reconstruction and empowerment projects in India (co-operatives in Cuddalore and Vellupuram districts in Tamil Nadu and Nicobar in Andaman Nicobar Islands with the financial support

Lanka (co-operatives in Southern Province with the financial support of B'nai Brit World Centre and the American Jewish Committee through NISPED, Israel).

The one year project in India started in July 2005 after ascertaining the needs of the target co-operatives in Tamil Nadu (need assessment jointly carried out by Anil Singh, ICA Domus Trust, Dr Puyalvannan, Principal, ICM, Chennai under the leadership of Dr Kannan, Registrar of Co-operatives, Govt. of Tamil Nadu) and Nicobar Island (as advised by NCDC). The focus was on reconstruction of co-operative physical infrastructure so as to bring back the delivery of normal services of the identified seven co-operatives for their more than 15,000 affected members.

- Vasanthayarpalayam Primary Agriculture Co-operative Bank (PACB)
- Vilvarayanatham PACB



- Kayalapattu PACB
- Cuddalore Cooperative Marketing Society
- Chidambaram Marketing Society
- Marakkanam Salt Workers' Cooperative Society (Vellupuram)

In Nicobar assistance included:

- Reconstruction of 500 MT capacity Godown
- Purchase of three trucks

ICA AP would like to acknowledge Co-operatives

Natural disaster assistance



A building which has been reconstructed using funds from Co-operatives UK and assisted by ICA and NCUI. The photo immediately above is of a notice on the building acknowledging this support.



Rajiv I.D. Mehta, second from right with representatives from assisted co-ops

of Co-operatives UK and National Co-operative Union of India), Indonesia (co-operatives in NAD Province with the financial assistance of ICA global funds raised by ICA member organisations and Co-operatives UK) and Sri

Monitoring of this assistance has been overseen by Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director ICA – AP and Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Director, ICA – AP. Six co-ops in Cuddalore and Vellupuram Districts, Tamil Nadu were assisted.

UK and NCUI, India for their very generous support of these projects as well as ICA members who contributed to the global appeal.

“ICA AP shall remain forever indebted to the international co-operative fraternity for their act of exemplary solidarity”

Rajiv I.D. Mehta,

Communications First stage of ICA's new global news service launched



icanews.coop

news feeds can be incorporated into your own website in a box similar to the one below.

Contact:

cronan@ica.coop



May 26, 2006
Statement - NCUA
Chairman JoAnn
Johnson's Statement
Regarding Senate
Passage of the
Financial Services
Regulatory
National Credit Union
Administration (NCUA)
Chairman JoAnn
Johnson released the
following statement
regarding Senate
Passage of the
Financial Services
Regulatory Relief Act of
2006.

**BRAND BLOW AS
UNITED OPT OUT
HOPES** that the new
co-operative brand
would be embraced
quickly and
enthusiastically by
retail societies have
been dealt a severe
blow following Peter
Marks announcement
at Congress

**Farmers discussing
ethanol plant
prospects -
Henderson Gleaner**
Farmers discussing
ethanol plant
prospects

**Co-operatives slow to
adopt ICT - Daily**

As reported on the front page of this issue, the ICA has launched a new "news" service.

The objective is to bring together in one site all the news from and about co-operatives.

One of the constant con-

cerns expressed by ICA members and others is the lack of profile for co-operatives in the media.

This is the case, although there is nevertheless, a large amount of co-op news which does get reported, or released by co-operatives themselves. By bringing this news and

information together in one spot it is hoped that we will be better able to see trends and issues of concern to co-ops at a much earlier stage.

We will then be able to either respond in the media or act in other ways on this "market intelligence", information which has previously gone unnoticed or acted upon.

Two streams of co-op news: one from co-operatives and one from reports in the media

The new website www.icanews.coop is drawing its content from two main sources.

Firstly, from co-operatives themselves. We will be encouraging co-ops and other related organisations to provide RSS enable feeds, so our website will be able to automatically publish your latest news. This, we believe, will provide a wider audience for your news.

Secondly, we are using search engines to hourly trawl the internet for the latest news on co-operatives.

In effect we are bringing together what co-ops are saying about themselves and what the external media is saying about co-ops.

It is hoped this mix of news from these two sources will enrich each other and be of value to members.

How does www.icanews.coop work?

The new "news" site has been developed using Drupal open source software.

As noted above, it is receiving two main streams of information.

It is expected that over time these two streams will generate potentially hundreds of news feeds a day. To help make

sense of this information, we are developing a menu system which gives you a way of searching for exactly what you want.

This menu system will take some time to fully develop, however at this stage we will be offering you the chance to search the news by date, region or country, sector or issues, for example demutualisation.

The news site will take several months to become fully operational and reach its full potential, so be patient!

In the meantime **help us to help you** by [RSS](http://www.icanews.coop) enabling your latest news on your website. That way it can then be directly incorporated into our news site. Contact: cronan@ica.coop

www.icanews.coop includes opportunities for you to make comments on the news. It also includes blogs, online forums and polls.

Communications

ICA's new www.ica.coop website

A number of new features have been added to the ICA's main website in this latest re-design.

These include:

- A totally new front page incorporating dynamic links to our news site with regular

updates of the latest "breaking" co-op news

- A new rolling banner on the front page featuring short simple messages about co-ops
- Direct links on the new front page to our sectoral organisations
- A calendar is now featured on the front page giving easy access to the

latest information on upcoming events.

Several other new features are planned for this site over the coming months including a members only section and new pages featuring best practices for co-ops.

The ICA was one of the first co-operative organisations to establish a website well over a decade ago.

Our latest online initiatives signal our continuing commitment to providing member services in this area.

The priority now for the www.ica.coop site is to ensure that all the content on the 600 pages is up to date.

A consistent look for our two new sites

The two new ICA sites have been deliberately designed to have a "consistent look". The same design elements have been applied to each site and they are linked at a number of levels to ensure cross traffic between the two sites. It is hoped that other ICA related sites will be able to be similarly linked in the future.



Visit ICA new main site www.ica.coop



Visit ICA new news site www.icanews.coop

You will be able to access www.icanews.coop news in several ways:

- By visiting the website - and simply looking at the latest news or searching for news of interest
- By visiting the website and selecting one or more of the many RSS feeds offered of news you want, to read in either your web browser or a specific RSS reader. You can use the categories in the drop down menus to filter the news so that your feed is more focused for your needs.
- Have the latest news stories delivered to you by email. Simply create an account at icanews.coop and select your preferred notification options.
- Finally, you can have icanews.coop available directly on your website, see box opposite on page 10.

The next stage of development for the ICA news service will include providing an analysis of the various news feeds coming into the www.icanews.coop website.

Contact: Garry Cronan
cronan@ica.coop

Latest news - Global 300 co-operatives



Many of the trends affecting co-operatives generally, often appear first in the larger co-ops - demutualisation is one example. We need to better understand such trends.

For more information, contact

Garry Cronan
cronan@ica.coop

Included below are some recent items from the ICA's new Global 300 monitoring service. Follow the source to the original media report.

- Community Bank of Central California of Salinas, bought by Rabobank in January, is changing its name to Rabobank, N.A. [Source](#)
- Rabobank, IFC stake in China co-op cut by 10% [Source](#)
- Saigon Co-op Mart is a key example of how co-operatives have successfully adjusted to the changing economic times in Vietnam. [Source](#)
- Fonterra is looking at building wind turbines to generate power for its Hawera factory. Source www.stuff.co.nz
- Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd. (FCO.YY), the world's biggest exporter of dairy commodities, may sell shares in its Chinese joint venture through an initial public offering. [Source](#)
- Dairy giant Fonterra and major Australian farm supplier Landmark have teamed up to expand their services to farmers on both sides of the Tasman. [Source](#)
- Campina eyes potential strategy for after milk quotas. [Source](#)
- Campina's DMV International Opens Innovium Centre for the Development of Ingredients for Food and Nutrition. [Source](#)
- Two of the largest credit unions in NSW, Australia, Community First Credit Union and Elcom Credit Union, unveiled a \$750 million marriage yesterday amid speculation of a wave of consolidation in the sector this year. [Source](#)
- The Co-operative Bank, a UK ethical bank, this month revealed it had joined those refusing to buy bonds issued by the World Bank's commercial arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), until it shows greater commitment to sustainable energy. [Source](#)
- Arla profit warning sparks stock sell-off. [Source](#)
- There must be better ways to milk the Irish Dairy Board. [Source](#)

WOCCU journal highlights increasing merger activity

There are a number of Credit Unions from throughout the world in the draft Global 300 list the ICA has prepared.

The latest issue of WOCCU's newsletter *World* also focuses on the merger trend which is evident among credit unions, but more generally among co-operatives as they seek to survive in increasingly competitive markets.

It notes that similar merger trends are occurring in three countries with strong Credit Unions, the USA, Canada and Australia. However, it states, "mergers may be making it possible for credit unions to survive, but they don't appear to be fuelling much membership growth in any of these movements". It also notes that the vast majority of credit union mergers in these countries are voluntary, not failures or demutualisations.

ICA reaches agreement with USA co-operative organisations to share data for Global 300 project

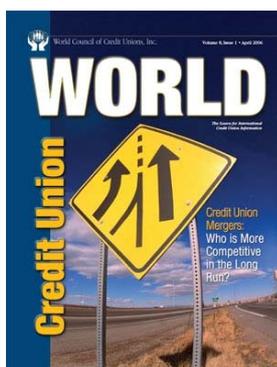
Global 300 Director, Garry Cronan recently met in Washington, DC, USA with representatives of the USDA Co-operative Service and the National Co-operative Bank to discuss the exchange of data for

the Global 300 project.

The ICA has reached agreement with both organisations to work together to build better data sets to help support the promotion and analysis of co-operatives.

"We hope the **Global 300** project will act as a catalyst for the development of global standards for co-op data collection"

Trends



Data exchange

New brand - promoting “the co-operative” in the UK

Branding

Zoe Morgan, Director of Marketing at the Co-operative Group www.co-op.co.uk/ explains the thinking behind a new identity for the UK’s ‘the co-operative’ brand.

For many consumers in the UK the word “co-op” has lost its meaning. Especially amongst younger people, “co-op” is simply the name of a grocery store made up of four letters. How to turn this situation around and re-invigorate the

– ‘The co-operative’ with simple but descriptive business names – for example ‘The co-operative travel’ ‘The co-operative pharmacy’. This is all geared to making ‘The co-operative’ a focal point of the signage, using the same font and blue colour across all our business sectors. Each business sector is differentiated by use of a different background colour linked to that business activity.

Five key brand messages have also been developed

to give a new co-operative identity we have developed standards of customer care including the condition of the outlet that carries the co-operative brand, customer service provided, products offered and crucially, availability.

To test the brand, we trailed the new identity in over 40 co-op branches across the UK. We measured performance in these



whole co-operative brand in the UK is the objective of a brand panel, established in the wake of the Report of the Co-operative Commission at the beginning of the millennium.

Following extensive consultation, a new identity based on ‘The co-operative’, was developed. The brand has been subject to the most rigorous programme of research ever conducted in the history of the business. A new fascia system was created which uses the umbrella brand name

– ‘championing’, ‘consistent quality’, ‘trustworthy’, ‘rewarding experience’, and ‘community’. The communications package that underpins the new brand, delivers these messages clearly to all stakeholders. By using the words ‘The co-operative’ we are making a statement about the organisation and the way we do business – “straightforward, open and honest”.

Of course, there is far more to creating a brand than a new fascia. In parallel with the work to de-

velop pilot locations through trading results, customer numbers and consumer research. Initial results indicate that there is strong support for the new brand amongst customers and staff.

Given the positive results of the trial, The Co-operative Group has decided to rollout the new identity across more than 3,400 outlets in the UK, with the benefit of strengthening the links between our businesses and promoting the advantages of co-operative trading.

“The UK experience of re-branding “the co-operative” could have relevance for many other movements throughout the world.

IFAP Congress adopts global farmers’ charter

Agriculture

The recent International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) 37th World Congress adopted a global farmers’ charter proposed by Korea’s National Agricultural Cooperative Federation. The 10-point charter includes protection and support for poor farmers and balanced development of rural and urban areas. It also stresses the status of farmers as producers of safe food and calls for co-operation between farmers’ groups to improve their social and economic position. IFAP will work to have the charter adopted as a UN resolution.

Member events

The UK movement is doing some interesting work in the areas of:

- Branding
- Movement performance (social and economic)
- Co-op heritage archive
- International development
- Fairtrade
- Sustainability



Overhead photo of delegates at the USA Co-op Summit held in the Ronald Regan Building, Washington.

UK Congress highlights innovation

The 137th annual UK Co-operative Congress was held in Manchester, UK from 19-21 May 2006. The Congress draws co-operators from around the UK and from all co-operative sectors of activity.

This year's Congress President was Labor and Co-operative Party MP Meg Munn. She was elected to take over from last year's Congress President, ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald. The Congress received reports on a range of interesting developments, including a detailed

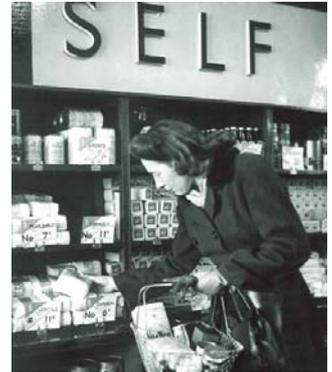
review of its performance which include social and environment aspects as well as financial.

The nation-wide branding project was also discussed, see page 13 for a separate report.

Also of global interest is the co-operative heritage project being undertaken by the UK Co-operative College.

The UK movement holds records, photos, films publications etc which are globally significant. For more information on this

contact Mervyn Wilson Mervyn@co-op.ac.uk see Co-operatives UK website



One of the many thousands of photos held in the UK collection

Co-operators gather in Washington for U.S. Co-op Summit

Approximately 300 leaders from every U.S. co-op sector converged on Washington, D.C., on 3 May 2006 for a day long National Co-operative Summit that covered issues ranging from governance to marketing to co-op conversions.

Organised by NCBA with help from leading U.S. cooperatives and their trade associations, the Summit allowed co-ops to focus on common issues and gain tools to serve their members better.

It also had an international flavour. As part of

the opening session, Pauline Green, CEO of Co-operatives UK, discussed efforts to develop a common co-op "master brand" in her country.

In addition, more than 20 representatives of the ICA, in Washington for a board meeting, attended key parts of the Summit.

Other major speakers included Wisconsin Sen. Herb Kohl, senior Democrat

on the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee; Deputy Agriculture Secretary Charles F. "Chuck" Conner; and Glenn English, a former Oklahoma congressman who is now CEO of the National Rural Electric Co-operative Association. See NCBA's website for details.



Former long serving ICA Board member, David Miller being inducted into the USA's Co-operative Hall of Fame by Nationwide Chair, Arden Schisler during the Co-op Summit

ICA meets with its USA members in Washington

The ICA took the opportunity of the recent Board in Washington to hold a special briefing session for its USA members. Representatives from NCBA, the National Cooperative Bank, Land O'Lakes, CUNA Mutual, ACDI/VOCA, NRECA and Nationwide attended. Details of ICA's **Global 300**, news and business programmes along with international development projects and international standing activities were provided to the US representatives.

Engaging and Empowering Congress, Ontario, Canada



The Canadian Co-operative Association www.coopscanada.coop/ is teaming up with one of its provincial members, the Ontario Co-operative Association to host *Engaging & Empowering*, a national event for co-operatives and credit unions, in London, Ontario, 9-10 June 2006.

Highlights of the event include keynote presenta-

tions by Pauline Green, Chief Executive of Co-operatives UK and Vice President (Europe) of the ICA, Bob Friesen, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and Emmanuel Darko, General Manager of the Credit Union Association of Ghana.

Participants will choose from 13 workshops on three themes: co-

operative development, co-operative business excellence, and engagement. The Congress takes place on June 10, the day after the back-to-back CCA and *On Co-op* AGMs on June 9. Delegates are invited to attend the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada's fundraising dinner – to enjoy a dance, live auction and a photo exhibition *Faces of Aceh, Indonesia*.

www.CoopsCanada.coop/congress2006.

Forthcoming member events



2006 World Credit Union Conference, 27-30 July in Dublin, Ireland

Credit unions in 91 countries provide more than 136 million people with an opportunity to grow through access to safe savings and affordable credit. WOCCU is the worldwide representative organisation for credit unions. [WOCCU](http://www.woccu.org) will host its annual conference next month in Dublin, Ireland

Generating awareness of credit union issues and the challenges in both developed and developing credit union movements is the theme of this year's con-

ference.

Aimed at credit union leaders from around the globe, the four-day conference is an opportunity to gain new insights on how to effectively serve a changing and increasingly sophisticated membership base.

The programme has four strands: strategy, finance and operations, increasing access to financial services, and issues for developing countries. Programme highlights include keynote ad-

resses from: Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and founder of Realizing Rights, the ethical globalisation initiative, speaking on the role of credit unions in equalising the effects of globalisation; and Daniel Mica, Chief Executive Officer, Credit Union National Association (CUNA) USA examining the power of politics: crusading for credit unions.

Delegates will be invited to network and visit local co-operatives as part of the programme.



Former Irish President, Mary Robinson a keynote speaker at WOCCU's Conference

See below for some co-operative events our Japanese members have advised us of.

- JWCUC's 27th General Assembly & the Central Jigyodan's 21st General Assembly will be held from June 2nd to 4th, 2006 at the JA Hall of Tokyo.
- The 5th General Assembly of Japan Older Persons' Consumer Co-operative Union will be held on June 11th – 12th at the Hotel of Heartin Nogisaka of Tokyo.
- The 16th Annual meeting of Japan Institute of Cooperative Research will be held on June 24th at the Meiji University. Contact: Mami Gamba gembam@roukyou.gr.jp

Feature interview

Alban D'Amours

This month the **Digest** talks to ICA board member, Alban D'Amours. Mr D'Amours is President and CEO of [Desjardins Group](#), the largest integrated co-operative financial group in Québec, Canada. He is a passionate defender of the co-operative business model and here discusses his vision for a more outspoken and proactive global co-operative movement.

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



Alban D'Amours, President and CEO, Desjardins Group and ICA Board member
(Photographer : Alain Vézina)

"I am a keen defender of the co-operative business model. I believe in its numerous virtues, its efficiency and its relevance in today's world"

Alban
D'Amours

AD'A: First of all, my academic background is in economics, which I taught for a number of years. I have always shown an interest in regional economic development. I also participated in founding the Institut de Recherche sur les coopératives de l'Université de Sherbrooke (IRECUS, a research institute on co-operatives), at Sherbrooke University where I was Professor of Economics for twelve years.

My first real experience in co-operative management was as Chair of the Board of the Caisse des fonctionnaires de Québec for five years, when I was serving in the Québec government (as Deputy Minister of

Revenue and Associate Deputy Minister of Energy). I was later invited to play an active role in the Desjardins Group. I was thrilled to join such a well-known and important socio-economic player of Québec society. Four out of five Quebecers are members of one or more caisses Desjardins. Our group is also Québec's largest private employer with over 37 000 employees. I must say that co-operatives in Québec, generally speaking, enjoy strong support from both the population and the provincial government.

I am a keen defender of the co-operative business model. I believe in its numerous virtues, its efficiency and its relevance in today's world. It benefits local communities directly, ensuring sustainable development and employment as well as equitable wealth distribution. It is capable of reconciling both financial and humanistic goals to the highest level. Our slogan at Desjardins – "making money work for people" - reflects our belief that co-operatives can be very competitive in terms of financial and social outcomes.

Digest: What does your current work in the co-operatives sector involve?

AD'A: As a member of Desjardins' senior management since 1988, I have held various positions, including that of Inspector and Auditor General of Desjardins Group. I was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group in March 2000 and re-elected for

a second term in January 2004.

I am Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, the central entity of the Group, and Chief Executive Officer of the Group and of its subsidiaries. The Desjardins Group is the largest financial institution in the province of Québec and the country's sixth largest with assets totalling over 125 billion CAN\$. Its network of over 500 caisses supported by some 20 subsidiaries serves close to 5.6 million owner-users in Canada offering them a complete range of banking and financial services. Desjardins' mission is to contribute to the well being of people and the economic and social development of their communities.

In my capacity as CEO of the Group, there are three objectives, the achievement of which is most important in my mind. They also figure amongst the Group's strategic priorities for 2006-2008. The first is the continuous search for efficiency and innovation throughout the Group. The second is to make our co-operative difference more tangible in everything we do (in our product offering, in our business relationship and in our business conduct in general, always striving to act according to co-operative values) and by acting according to co-operative values. The third is to contribute to the

Alban D'Amours interview...continued

growth and competitiveness of the co-operative movement.

Let me give you a few examples. Desjardins is proactive in the solutions it offers to several key societal problems, be it protection of the environment, the aging of the population impacting available manpower, succession planning and so on. For instance, Desjardins is the only financial institution in Canada which has a policy for supporting regional economic development. We succeeded in reinvigorating the economy of a small town located in a distant region by establishing our provincial student loan centre there rather than opting for a site in a major city. We supplied a new building and created 100 jobs. We contribute CAN \$5,000,000 in wages to the region each year and we are the largest private employer in that town.

Also, in the context of its Canadian expansion, Desjardins wants to play an important role in the strengthening of the financial co-operative movement. The Group is offering its technological platform and related services to other credit unions to better equip them to face the fierce competition from strong commercial banks.

Digest: *How strong is the movement in Canada and is it expanding?*

AD'A: The Canadian co-operative movement counts close to 16 million members out of a population of 32 million. It represents assets totalling \$184 billion. In the financial co-operative

sector, Canada is one of the countries which has the largest number of credit union members in proportion to its population (close to 33%). The financial co-operative sector alone accounts for 11% of the total national assets of the country's deposit-taking institutions.

One sector which is going to grow and generates much interest is that of health co-ops and home care co-operatives. In Canada, and in Québec in particular, we must prepare for the acute aging of the population.

We must however stay vigilant. Not so long ago, we witnessed, with sadness, the demutualisation of the last of three major wheat pool organisations. The spectre of demutualisation remains a threat to many of our great co-operative enterprises. Those who believe that demutualisation delivers sound outcomes must awaken to the fact that it seriously hinders in the long run the significant socio-economic benefits that mutuals and co-operatives pledge to their members and to the businesses of the local communities at stake. And in the short run, the few users of the moment will unfairly benefit from a global patrimony built by previous generations. We need to combat this idea by promoting the success of co-operatives at all levels, including among management teams which too often wrongly believe that the capitalistic model is the better one namely to access capital to ensure the

Feature Interview



growth of the organisation.

In my view, co-operatives in Canada can play a significant role in the economy. We see more and more state governments' deficit increasing and their ability to render some services to the population at reasonable costs threatened. Co-operatives are the best partner for government to deliver services in a non-discriminatory way to the population, having its interest at heart and not being motivated first and foremost by the search for profit. Obviously, this is over and above the generous returns of moneys to local members and communities under the form of patronage allocations, sponsorships, bursaries and donations. Over the past three years, the Desjardins Group has returned over 1,2 billion

Alban D'Amours, addressing a recent Congress meeting
(Photographer : Patrick McKoy)

“Desjardins wants to play an important role in the strengthening of the country's financial co-operative movement”

Interview

Alban D'Amours interviewcontinued

“It seems obvious to me that co-operative organisations need to work more closely together”

“There is a great need at the international level to make the business case for co-operatives and to promote their success...”

“The ICA Global 300 project is an example of an initiative to help promote the co-operative business model”

CAN\$ in patronage allocations alone to its members, equal to 41% of its surplus earnings.

Digest: *what in your view are the priorities for the movement at home and globally?*

AD'A: Intercooperation amongst co-operatives is key. For instance, a Desjardins subsidiary has created a venture capital instrument namely to help the capitalisation of co-operatives in Québec.

In the financial sector, there are great opportunities ahead. We are already preparing ourselves in the event of potential mergers amongst the larger Canadian commercial banks. Where some banks could be forced to sell off some branches, financial co-operatives could join forces to integrate those to ensure that Canadians' accessibility to financial services and quality service are preserved.

Also, at the international level, through its subsidiary Développement International Desjardins www.did.qc.ca/en/default.html technical expertise in the area of microfinance is provided to more than 800 credit unions serving three million members in some 20 emerging countries. Last week, Desjardins hosted a meeting with federal government officials from the Ministry of Finance who wanted to become more acquainted with our Group, since in Canada, co-operatives operate mainly under provincial jurisdiction. They were greatly surprised by our business perform-

ance and learned much from the various presentations over two days. It strikes me that co-operatives need to be more aggressive and outspoken about their business success and social performance. We need to make ourselves more visible at every level, amongst wider audiences. I was shocked to hear last week about the possibility of Standard's Life demutualising. We must be more convincing about what added-value co-ops can offer members and their communities.

It is a well-known fact that co-operatives' characteristics are little known by various institutions of importance, be they regulatory or supervisory agencies (rating agencies, international authorities for accounting norms, Basel Accord and so on). There is a great need at the international level to make the business case for co-operatives and to promote their success and huge contribution to local communities, to show how they can become significant partners of state governments in the fight against poverty, exclusion, or in employment creation, and how they can make a difference in the many forms of return they make to the local communities rather than profits that return to foreign investors.

To do that, we need updated data – the only way we can really appreciate the success, financial and social, of co-operatives. We hope that the HEC

international financial co-operative observatory (part of the University of Montreal) will remedy, in part, this situation. The ICA Global 300 project is an example of an initiative to help promote the co-operative business model. We need economic indicators and financial ratings to hand. Global data is not available. This is a very serious problem.

We must also monitor the evolution of the co-operative movement. Are there more co-operatives now than 10 years ago? What are the characteristics and business models of successful co-operatives? What are the key trends affecting co-ops and how can we better anticipate the issues likely to shape and ensure their future? The movement needs to find answers to the questions and to access reliable data.

The ICA also has a role to play in ensuring the co-operative model is more visible at a global level. All of us working in the co-operative movement need to be aware of the threats from the dominant capitalist model. Governments at all levels are very influenced by this model. All the regulations we have to work within derive from this model. The co-operative movement has a lot of work to do and we can do it more effectively by working together – creating networks. Even though this requires that we must reconcile solidarity and autonomy, it is the only way to meet the challenges ahead.

TICA at the World Congress on Social Tourism

Sectors

Tourism co-operatives joined the International Bureau of Social Tourism in Aubagne, France to discuss and share best practices.

Under the theme, *Towards a tourism based on development and solidarity*, 280 participants including members of TICA, ICA's sectoral organisation for tourism, discussed issues for how to improve access to all to holidays, how social tourism contributes to regional development and how fair tourism can contribute to the reduction of poverty.

TICA Coordinator and

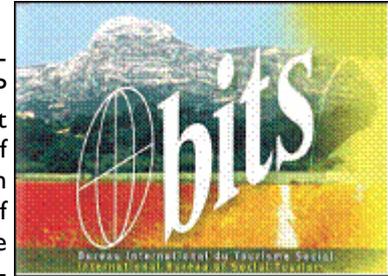
BITS Board member, Maurizio Davolio, helped organise and acted as rapporteur on the session on fair tourism and poverty reduction.

Two UN agencies, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UN WTO) and the United Nations Development Programme shared information on tourism projects that aimed at community development. Both underlined too the important role that co-operatives played in their actions to promote sustainable development.

During the discussions, Mr. Eugenio Yunnis of UNWTO noted, "the co-operative ele-

ment is vital for the success of sustainable community development and reducing poverty".

Ms. Nesma Brahimhi of UNDP also noted that the creation of co-ops were an integral part of rehabilitating the ancient commercial route of Ksour to both protect cultural heritage in Sahelian Africa and create income opportunities for the local population. TICA and ICA will be following up with both organisations on how to work more closely together.



Communications

Co-operatives on the airwaves

The British Columbia Institute of Co-operative Studies (BCICS)

Connection features news, stories and interviews related to the co-operative movement in



Canada and around the world. Each For All can be heard every

Thursday at

has launched its new educational radio programme beginning 4 May.

1:00pm on the radio at 101.9 FM in Victoria, BC, and on the web at <http://cfuv.uvic.ca>.

Each for All: The Co-operative

Along with the show, extra



content, extended interviews and show podcasts are available through the show's website: <http://bcics.uvic.ca/radio/>.

The first show featured an interview examining the emergence of the co-operative movement with historian, Dr. Ian MacPherson. <http://bcics.uvic.ca>

Research

Research conference on co-op response to civil society's new expectations

Globalisation and economic concentration, the IT revolution, and changes in political balance nationally, and at world level, reshape the daily lives of citizens around the world.

The new awareness of the impact of global development motivates civil society groups and social movements to internationally

organised voluntary action, so as to make their voice heard as witness the debates that surround WTO-events. New forms of solidarity and concern for the community can be observed, esp. in developed economies.

How does the cooperative movement contribute to meeting these challenges?

The XXII International Co-

operative Research Conference aims to approach this issue in a reflective and analytic way. Papers that contribute to theory and/or to the dissemination of practical experience are welcome.

The conference will be held in Dourdan, a small town 55 km south of Paris, 19-22 October 2006. Contact Jean-François Draperi draperi@cnam.fr



Visit research conference website www.icaresearch-paris.coop

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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

1 June	International workshop on "Integrated support for farmers' organizations and development co-operation, Arnhem, Netherlands. www.agriterra.org
4-8 June	8th Development Education Workshop, Bangkok . Thailand. Contact: nair@icaroap.coop
17-18 June	ICA Housing Board and seminar, Vancouver, Canada. Contact: Mike Doyle, mdoyle@chfinternational.org
17-19 June	Peace and Co-operation Workshop, Vancouver, Canada. Contact Ian MacPherson, cluny@uvvm.uvic.ca
19-21 June	26th CIRIEC International Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, www.ciriec.org/index.php?action=chlang&newlang=en Contact: elizabeth.armstrong@co-op.co.uk
21 June	6th CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow, Scotland.
21 June	Interactive workshop to celebrate International Co-operatives Day, Scottish Co-op. Contact: elizabeth.armstrong@co-op.co.uk
22-23 June	ICMIF Marketing Network Seminar, Manchester, United Kingdom. Contact: faye@icmif.org
30 June - 1 July	5th Annual Glocalization Conference, Ankara, Turkey. Contact: silviam@glocalforum.org www.glocalforum.org
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
4-5 Sept	ICA Board, strategic planning meeting, Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: Iain Macdonald, macdonald@ica.coop
6-7 Sept	ICA Board meeting, Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: Iain Macdonald, macdonald@ica.coop
6-8 Sept	International Conference, Reclaiming the Economy: the Role of Co-operative Enterprise, Ownership and Control, Cardiff, Wales. www.uwic.ac.uk/ubs/conferences/#Sugg
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: Jean-François Draperi draperi@cnam.fr also see www.icaresearch-paris.coop
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