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Issue 1 - 2002

Moving on....



I would like to thank all my colleagues working with me in the ICA in Geneva and in the regions, all Board Members, the members of the Audit & Control Committee, all member organisations and other organisations and persons that I have been collaborating with. I have enjoyed my work and the interaction with co-operators from all over the world. I regret that I have had to cut short my stay with the ICA due to personal reasons. I will be leaving the ICA at the end of March, returning to my home in Finland. Thank you all !

Karl Johan Fogelström

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ICA subscriptions top CHF 2 million in February

ICA members have shown their strong support to the organisation with early payment of their subscription fees. As of mid-February over CHF 2 million representing 80% of the budgeted subscription income for 2002 have been paid.

The European region leads in early payment with 64% of members paying in 2001 and early 2002. 50% of the international members of the ICA have also paid their dues, 41% of members from Asia/Pacific, 33% from the Americas and 25% from Africa.

With early payment and the 10% increase in dues, members have confirmed their wish to ICA continue its work in an efficient and effective manner.

We wish to thank those organisation that have made early payments for this vote of confidence and we look forward to receiving the remaining subscription payments as early as possible.

[Karl Fogelstrom](#)



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.coop Domain gets off to a strong start

Officially launched on 30th January, the new top level Internet domain for co-operatives, .coop, has to date taken over 5000 registrations. The launch was accompanied by excellent press coverage from around the world, and strong support from ICA member organisations. Typical of the welcome was a comment from Coop Norway:

"Co-op Norway and .coop, joined together in harmony! We just had to do it! We will carry our coop domain with pride. It represents the essence of our work - in one word."

Today, in addition to the ICA which has activated ica.coop, a number of ICA members are using their .coop domain names. Among these include:

- Conseil Canadien de la Coopération (CCC), Canada -- [ccc.coop](#)
- Crédit Coopératif, France -- [credit-cooperatif.coop](#)
- Crédit Mutuel, France -- [creditmutuel.coop](#)
- Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), Japan -- [jccu.coop](#)
- Confederación Española de Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado (COCETA), Spain -- [coceta.coop](#)
- Co-operative Union, United Kingdom -- [coopunion.coop](#)
- Co-operative Insurance Society, United Kingdom -- [cis.coop](#)
- Plunkett Foundation, United Kingdom --- [plunkett.coop](#)
- ACDI-VOCA, USA -- [acdivoca.coop](#)
- National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA), USA -- [ncba.coop](#)

There are also an additional 500 co-operatives around the world using their .coop their .coop identities on the Internet both as their main website addresses and increasingly for e-mail too.

Unsurprisingly the strongest early interest in .coop has come from co-operatives in North America with over 70% of the initial registrations. Co-operatives in the European Union have registered a further 25% of the total. However co-operatives in other parts of the world, particularly India and Japan, are also starting to register their .coop names. ICA members are registering an average of 5 domain names per organisation.

Register a .coop domain name now! [www.coop](#)

[See .coop launch press releases and supporting statements from the United Nations and European Union.](#)

[Maria Elena Chavez](#)

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NACF renews its support to ICA with a new secondee

The National Agricultural Co-operative Federation NACF of Korea has renewed its support to the ICA by making Dr. Chan-ho Choi available to the ICA. Dr. Choi who until now was team leader on international trade issues at the International Department of NACF will begin his assignment with ICA in March 2002. Dr. Choi will replace Mr. Si-Hyung Jo who has completed a 3-year assignment with ICA as Agricultural Advisor.

Mr. Jo has provided invaluable assistance to the ICA Secretariat in Geneva not only with expert advice on agricultural matters, but also by contributing to the work of the specialised bodies and membership section. Although Jo has achieved much during his time at ICA, many will remember him as being key to success of the ICA General Assembly in Seoul. Jo was the ICA liaison with NACF and ensured the excellent arrangements from which we benefited.

Mr. Jo will not leave the ICA entirely but rather will continue working with ICA from his home organisation. Jo returns the International Department of NACF.

ICA wishes him all the best in his new job!

[Karl Fogelstrom](#)



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Co-operatives: Vital links to local development

The first ICA Research conference to be held in South-Eastern Europe will focus on the role of co-operatives in local development (9-12 May 2002, Naousa, Thessaloniki, Greece). With 30 papers already submitted for discussion and review, the conference promises to provide useful exchanges of best practice especially with regard to the contributions of credit unions and rural co-operation.

The conference will address local development looking at the agricultural sector from the point of view of social capital, local welfare and the new economy. Participants will in particular investigate not only how local economies grow with co-operative activity but also how this channels into the national and finally global economy.

The conference will be hosted by the Technological Educational Institute of West Macedonia, Greece.

Detailed information is found on the conference web site: kastoria.teiko2.gr/ICA2002 or contact:

[Yohanan Stryjan](#) or [Patricia Vaucher](#)



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Former ICA President, Graham Melmoth honoured in the UK

UK Co-operative Group Chief Executive and former ICA President, Graham Melmoth, was knighted in the New Year's Honours List in the United Kingdom for his service to the retail industry.

The honour is a recognition of his 26-year career with the Co-operative Movement and in particular his key roles in combating the attempted take-over of the society, the merger with CRS and the setting up the Co-operative Commission which works with the UK government. Ivano Barberini, ICA's current president sent Sir Graham a congratulatory message expressing ICA's sincere congratulations on this important national recognition. Sir Graham said "I'd like to think that the knighthood is recognition of the progress made in recent year by the Co-operative Movement in re-establishing itself as a significant force in the UK social and business economy."

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European Union conference moves forward on a policy on co-op enterprise

"Co-operatives are more relevant today than they have ever been" were the words of European Commission President Mr. Romano Prodi to the European Co-operative Convention held in Brussels on 13 February. Organised by the CCACE (Coordination Committee of European Co-operative Associations), the meeting provided input to the Commission on the Statute of the European Co-operative Society and official document of the Commission regarding co-operatives.

Following comments from each of the Brussels sectoral organisations on the EU documents, ICA Vice-President for Europe, Mr. Lars Hillbom made comments on behalf of co-operatives from EU's candidate countries while providing background to Mr. Prodi and the participants on the ICA and the work of ICA Europe. He underlined the importance of the continued participation of co-operatives from East and Central Europe in the work on the EU documents, the importance of communicating to governmental authorities in those countries the strong and positive views of the EU on co-operatives, and the need to include specific co-operative development projects for candidate countries in implementation.

Mr. Etienne Pflimlin, President of CCACE also noted that it was paramount the co-operatives in Europe have an active role in the work of the EU. With over 180,000 co-ops with 80 million members and providing more than 3.2 million jobs, the economic and social contribution of co-operatives was significant and warranted increased collaboration and input.

Mr. Prodi recognised the uniqueness and importance of co-operatives saying that the ability of co-operatives "... to combine the efficiency and energy of an entrepreneurial approach with the values and accountability of the public sector and civil society makes them an essential part of the European economic and social model....That is why the Commission intends to do all it can to help co-operatives do business in Europe."

ICA President, Ivano Barberini in his closing words, thanked Mr. Prodi and his colleagues for the opportunity to meet and discuss the Commission's policy documents on co-operatives. He left the meeting with the conviction that EU Commission and the European co-operative movement had sealed a pact for a close and fruitful collaboration.

Co-operatives from the countries of the European Union as well as from a number of candidate countries participated in the meeting.

[Gabriella Sozanski](#)

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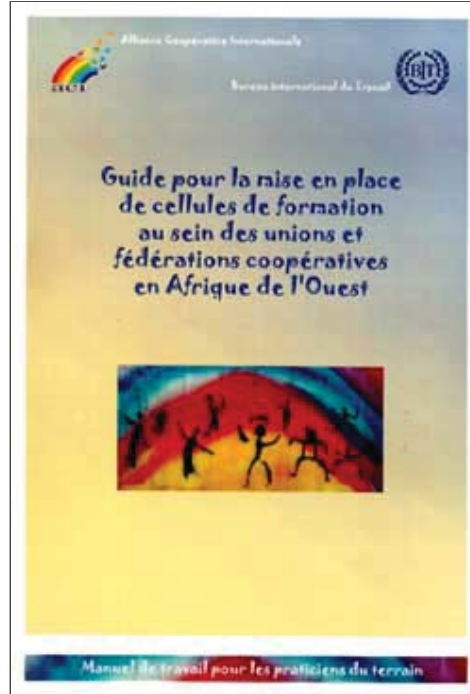
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ICA ROWA - ILO training manual for West African co-operative federations



The ICA and International Labour Office (ILO) jointly prepared training manual focuses on the human resource development in the context of the new environment of globalisation and liberalisation of markets. It is a tool to assist co-operators, trainers, consultants and training institutes to analyse, plan and take strategic decisions on how to better integrate co-operative education in professional training so as to enable co-operatives to "reinvent" themselves to confront the challenges of the new economic and social environment in the region. The manual puts special emphasis on gender issues to ensure that gender is integrated in all actions envisaged. Available in French only, the manual contains technical information on how to carry out organisational analyses, to formulate strategic plans and prepare proposals to seek financing.

The manual was prepared and validated in consultation with a large number of co-operators and specialists. Materials from SOCODEVI and the Orion co-operative in Canada are included. The publication was financed by DANIDA (Denmark) and NRD/NORCOOP (Norway).

[A.S. Kibora](#)

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ILO recent publications on co-operatives

- The Role of Co-operatives and other Self-Help Organisations in Crisis Resolution and Socio-Economic Recovery

Co-operative response to crisis response and reconstruction is the main focus of the new International Labour Office (ILO) study entitled "The Role of Co-operatives and other Self-Help Organisations in Crisis Resolution and Socio-Economic Recovery". The study makes special reference to employment challenges brought about by difficult social changes and political transition, armed conflicts, economic and financial downturns and natural disasters. The objective of the study is to help improve ways in which co-operatives and other self-help organisations may become more relevant and effective within recovery strategies and programmes following crises; and in programmes designed in mitigation of such events. The study highlights the role of co-operatives in creating (self) employment, providing basic social protection, fostering or restoring social dialogue and democracy, integrating ex-soldiers, displaced persons and refugees, protecting natural resources etc.

ICA contributed to the study by identifying potential case studies and providing contacts to ILO.

More information: [Mark Levin, ILO Co-op Branch](#)

- Transition to Co-operative Entrepreneurship

 ILO new publication

Focusing on current entrepreneurial and management practices in a number of co-operatives in transition and developing economies, the ILO study identifies key factors determining the success of co-operative entrepreneurship in the transition from central planning to a market-driven economy. The study includes 8 original case-studies from Armenia, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Poland, Russia, Uganda and Vietnam. These outline key factors of successful co-operative development including leadership and human resources development, the quality of financial management, investment policies and planning, implementation of co-operative principles and good governance, and appropriate legal and policy environment.

The book is a joint publication of the ILO's Co-operative Branch and the Netherlands Institute for Co-operative Entrepreneurship.

More information: [Anne-Brit Nippierd, ILO Co-op Branch](#)

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Asia/Pacific Co-op banks push for legislative reforms

Establishing a legal framework for financial co-operatives which protects the co-operative identity, and ownership for co-operative banking institutions were among the main themes of the Seminar-cum-Workshop on Co-operative Banking in the Asia-Pacific Region held at the end of January. Ensuring effective networking of financial co-operatives was also addressed by the 47 seminar participants from India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Singapore, and Sri Lanka.

"Co-operative banks must convert the 'welfarist' philosophy into a 'business entrepreneurial' philosophy, based on mobilisation of people" said the Governor of the Central Bank of India, Mr. A.S. Jayawardena, in his keynote address to the seminar. However, he noted that in order for co-operative banks to be effective, banking laws required amendments to enable them to function under appropriate self-regulations.

Following the presentation of country studies and discussion, the seminar recommended that an integrated package of co-operative institutional system for micro-finance based on savings mobilisation, credit dispensation, risk coverage and education be established.

The seminar was organised by ICA ROAP in collaboration with the SANASA Development Bank, from 26-27 January, 2002 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

[Shil-Kwan Lee](#)



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