

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - June 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Issue 6 - July 2000



Food for Thought

The benefits of globalization can be shared by all through the co-operative movement - so we must co-operate. Solidarity, equality and democracy are empty words if not put into practice - so let's practice what we preach!

When one reflects on the fact that co-operative enterprises secure the livelihood of almost three billion people - there is no need to ask the question "Can co-operatives make a difference"? The answer is more than obvious - the future is co-operative

by [Patricia Vaucher](#)

Content

Celebration of the 78th International Co-operative Day

- [UN Secretary General Annan Highlights Important Role Of Co-operative Movement](#)
- [International Day of Co-operatives - Australia](#)
- [International Day of Co-operatives - Scotland](#)
- [ICA Presspack on the 78th International Day of Co-operatives](#)

ICA Regional Assembly in Asia-Pacific

- [History In The Making!](#)
- [Asia-Pacific Co-operative Research Conference Recognizes Need To Form Network Of Researchers](#)

ICA News

- [ICA President's Message On Management Changes At ICA Secretariat](#)
- [ICA Addresses United Nations General Assembly on June 30](#)
- [ICA Accepts Chairmanship of COPAC](#)
- [ICA Youth Initiative Is Taking Shape](#)
- [ICA Gender Issues Brought to Attention of International Community](#)
- [Successful Co-operatives World-Wide Represented At Global Forum](#)

ICA and Co-ops In The Regions

- Africa: [Co-operators Further Support Kenya Bomb Victims](#)
- Asia-Pacific: [Korea's Community Credit Co-operatives Report Continued Growth](#)

["TQM Practices in agricultural Co-operatives in Asia" - new publication](#)

- Europe: [Co-operative Insurer Issues First Social Report](#)
[Danish Consumer Co-operatives Resist Foreign Competition](#)
- The Americas: [Chile's Largest Savings and Credit Co-operative Continues to Grow](#)
[Us Congress Considers Equity Fund For Co-operatives](#)

ICA, UN and NGOs

- [UN General Assembly Calls for Support for Co-operatives to Implement Geneva 2000 Recommendations](#)
- [ICA Participates in Millennium Forum](#)
- [COPAC Open Forum: "Can Co-operatives Make a Difference?"](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22

E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

UN Secretary General Annan Highlights Important Role Of Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement can help ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared by all, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on the eve of the International Day of Co-operatives, celebrated each year on the first Saturday of July.

"Founded on the principles of private initiative, entrepreneurship and self-employment, underpinned by the values of democracy, equality and solidarity, the movement can help pave the way to a more just and inclusive economic order," the Secretary-General said in his message for the Day.

He noted that in many countries, co-operatives have developed into powerful and prosperous economical entities with extensive organizational structures. The most successful have grown into large-scale, professionally run and solidly financed enterprises that operate in full competition with commercial firms while emphasizing expertise that enables people to help themselves.

Stressing that co-operatives serve as an example to those who would like to see the private sector get more involved in development activities, he called for making greater use of the tools that the co-operative movement offers towards the shared goal of "a more just, more inclusive and more prosperous world."

The UN International Day of Co-operatives was initially celebrated on the first Saturday of July 1995, marking the centenary of the International Co-operative Alliance, an umbrella organization comprising groups in almost 100 countries.

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

[Content](#)

[Next](#)ⁿ

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

International Day of Co-operatives - Australia

The Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development (ACCORD) launched its website on 1 July 2000 in conjunction with the International Co-operatives Day. The web address is www.co-operativesonline.com

Two Australian Universities are attached to this multi-disciplinary Research Centre, the University of Technology (Sydney) and Charles Stuart University (Bathurst). The main research is in the following areas:

- the operation of co-operatives and mutual organizations
- international best practice in co-operative management
- governance, strategic development and financing of co-operatives and other mutual associations.
- other areas of interest include effective co-operative responses to local/regional economic development, job creation and community building projects which promote social and financial inclusion and people-centred sustainable regeneration.

The centre provides a wide range of organizational development, director training, management education and consultancy services to co-operatives and mutual associations.

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

[Back](#) ^g [Content](#) ⁿ [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

International Day of Co-operatives - Scotland

The Co-operative Wholesale Society CWS recently organized an event in New Lanark, Scotland to celebrate the 78th International Day of Cooperatives. It included a live video link between co-operators in Australia, Canada, Japan, India, Ireland, Peru, Scotland, and other countries around the world to discuss issues on youth and co-operatives, credit and debt. It also included discussion on prediction for the future of co-operatives such as the Co-operative Identity, and joint ventures.

Information on the event and activities are available at: www.co-opday.org

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

[Back](#) [Content](#) [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org





78th ICA International Co-operative Day 6th UN International Day of Cooperatives



Co-operatives and Employment Promotion

The ICA produces a press kit for use by its members, other co-operatives, the media and international organizations to assist them in publicizing the Day. This year the press kit included materials highlighting the theme of the Day, "Co-operatives and Employment Promotion". The materials included in the pack are listed below:

[Message from the International Co-operative Alliance](#)

Message of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan for the occasion of United Nations International Day of Cooperatives

[The International Co-operative Alliance - A Community of Co-operators](#) (an update)

[Message from the ILO Co-operative Branch](#)

[Cooperatives' Role in Food Security - FAO's Perspective](#) (word document)

[COPAC - The Contribution of Co-operatives to Employment Promotion](#)

[COPAC Open Forum - Decent Work: Can Co-operatives Make a Difference](#)

For information on past International Days see:

- [77th ICA International Co-operative Day - 5th UN International Day of Cooperatives, 1999](#)
- [76th ICA International Co-operative Day - 4th UN International Day of Cooperatives, 1998](#)
- [75th ICA International Co-operative Day - 3rd UN International Day of Cooperatives, 1997](#)

Last updated: 22 June 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22

E-mail: ica@coop.org



[[Copyright Status](#) | [Disclaimer of Endorsement](#) | [Disclaimer of Liability](#) | [Authorized Use Policy](#).]

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

History In The Making!

The Co-operative Movement in Asia-Pacific made history this June in Singapore. The First ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum opened on June 24 amidst ceremony and messages of hope from Government and co-op leaders that co-ops will play an important role in the region.

The theme of the Forum was "Co-operatives in the 21st Century: Are We Changing?" There were several panel discussions on "Co-operative Values", "Co-operative Governance", "Capital Mobilization", "Innovation" and "Co-op Trade".

Mr. Lim Boon Heng, Minister without Portfolio of the Government of Singapore mentioned: "Globalisation lead to more cross-border trade and investments. Businesses tap into global financial markets for funds. We must constantly re-examine our strategies in tandem with the changing world, and if need be, re-invent ourselves. We either keep up or we are left out. This will help us to perform an important role, as social leveler, in the new globalized economy".

In noting the value of co-ops to millions living in Asia-Pacific and around the world, speakers told us that all governments recognize the vital role co-ops play in our communities and beyond.

"In my opinion, every economic sector, which constitutes the source of living of the people at large, as well as the rendering of services needed by the society, should be jointly run by the people and the government", Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, told the over-300 Forum delegates and dignitaries that "The spirit of gotong-royong (mutual co-operation) in executing development for the people should become the term of reference for the development of co-operatives." She said that this mode of understanding will provide a place for a co-operative in every nook and cranny of life of the society".

Her Excellency encouraged co-ops to maintain their adherence to the co-operative principles, focusing special attention on the need to "reflect a true and genuine democracy."

"Co-operatives must adhere to good governance, which should not merely serve as a condition but should in fact become the character of the co-operatives themselves", she said, adding that the criteria of good governance is predictability, transparency, accountability and sustainability.

The Honorable Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi, Minister for Community Development and Sports, Government of Singapore, reiterated that co-operatives are community enterprises. "We need to examine existing mindsets to see if they should change to meet the challenges of the IT-based economy".

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation and Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia and the Pacific spoke at the Forum.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, former Director General, ICA, mentioned that the co-operative movement worldwide sustains one billion jobs.

ICA (Asia Pacific) Regional Director Robby Tulus who presided over the opening ceremony noted that the lives of three billion people - about half of the world's population - are made secure by co-operatives.

Mr. Ian McPherson synthesized the whole Forum and came out with a synopsis.

The First Asia-Pacific Co-op Forum was preceded by the First Asian Research Conference on 24-25 June, 2000 wherein 57 researchers, co-operative leaders and practitioners, including Prof. Roger Spear, Chair of the ICA Global Research Committee, attended the Conference. Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Chair of the Asian Co-operative Research Forum led the conference. The Conference covered a wide range of scientific inquiries including participative democracy, value-based management, gender and youth, strategies and structures, creating employment, renewal and innovation, and supporting community.

The next regional Research Conference will be held in 2002 in conjunction with ICA Regional Assembly.

The next major event was the 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Forum, which was held on 26 June, 2000. Encouraged by the success of the First Regional Women's Forum in Seoul, Korea, during October 1988, the ICA Regional Women's Committee convened the 2nd Regional Women's Forum, on the strategic theme of 'Transcending Glass Ceilings and Glass Ladders in the New Millennium'. The keynote speaker was Ms. Lydia Johnson, Regional Manager at the Van City Savings Credit Union. Inaugurating the Forum, Madam Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Senior Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development and Sports, Government of Singapore, mentioned, "Co-operatives need good people to run the business enterprises and they can ill afford to neglect the potential contribution of women, who are a valuable resource, both present and future, for the advancement of the co-operative movement.

The Forum was also addressed by Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, former Director General, ICA, Madam Rahaiah Baharen, Chairperson of ICA Regional Women's Committee and Mr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

The Forum had several panelists who gave overviews of the situation in the countries of the Region. The participants, who numbered around 120, were grouped into six groups, who discussed the issues of "glass ceilings and glass ladder" and came out with useful suggestions and comments for "breaking the glass ceilings" and "making the glass ladder less slippery for the women leaders".

Several specialized committees of the ICA in Asia-Pacific, Agriculture, Consumers, University, HRD and Research, Regional Banking Association and Regional Women's Committees, held their meetings in Singapore on June 25, 2000.

[Robby Tulus](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22

E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Asia-Pacific Co-operative Research Conference Recognizes Need To Form Network Of Researchers

The decision to increase the contribution of research work to the advancement of the co-operative movement in the Asia-Pacific region was a decision made at the First Asia-Pacific Research Conference. It noted the need to bridge the gap between co-operative leaders and researchers.

Two main themes were discussed: How to put the Co-operative Principles into operation and; the Co-operative Response to Present and Future Challenges in the Changing Environment. They reflect the most important tasks facing co-operatives in the region. Co-operative studies have to make a contribution in identifying best practices, thus helping the movement to find solutions.

The Asian co-operative Research Forum was created within the framework of the ICA Asian Committee on Research and HRD and has met under the chairmanship of Mr. Akira Kurimoto, of the International Department of Japanese Consumers Co-op Union, in Singapore July 1999, on the occasion of the opening of the ICA business office. The first Organizing Committee meeting was held in Seoul, October 1988.

More than fifty contributors answered the call for papers. The meeting brought together researchers and co-operative leaders from Australia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand with five researchers participating from other regions such as Canada, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Professor Ian MacPherson from Victoria University, Canada made a keynote speech entitled "Research on co-operatives in Asia, an observer's Respectful Views". The Chairman of the ICA Research committee, Professor Roger Spear, (Open University U.K) reviewed the global trends of co-operative research.

The twenty-six papers, covering a wide range of co-operative issues and sectors, were presented at the seven parallel sessions. These covered Participative Democracy, value-based management, gender and youth, strategies and structures, creating employment, renewal and innovation and a supporting community.

Mr. Madane (India) summarized the discussion and suggestions were made on the themes for the second Asian Research Conference to be held in conjunction with the next Regional Assembly in 2002. The closing remarks were made by Mr. Yehudah Paz (Israel), ICA Board member, in which he hoped that a good start had been made to increase the contribution of research work to the advancement of the co-operative movement in the region and bridge the gap between co-operative leaders and researchers so that both could learn from each other and generate synergy. He also hoped that this first venture would lead to the establishment of a network of researchers in the region and integrate them into the global one.

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22

E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

ICA President's Message On Management Changes At ICA Secretariat July 4, 2000

Dear ICA Member,

There is an important development concerning ICA management, which I would like to share with you in this brief message.

After many years of serving ICA, Bruce Thordarson decided, as a result of several discussions with me on behalf of the entire Board, to leave the position of Director General of our organisation. His last working day was today, July 4 2000.

Following consultations with the ICA Board members in person and through correspondence, the Board appointed Karl-Johan Fogelström, the current Managing Director of the Swedish Co-operative Centre, SCC as new Director General, effective from 1 September 2000.

In the interim period Claes Thorselius, Deputy Director General will be the acting Director General.

All Board members want to thank Bruce Thordarson for his commitment to the co-operative movement during his years of service with ICA and sincerely wish him all the best for his future life and activities.

At the same time the Board welcomes the new Director General and looks forward to working with him.

Karl-Johan Fogelström is a Finnish citizen, born in 1940. He was first employed by SOK, one of the Finnish consumer co-operative organisations. His international career started in 1969 as an advisor to the Nordic co-operative project in Kenya. After that he became Deputy-Managing Director of SOK co-operative society in Åland, Finland and Co-ordinator of a Nordic co-operative project in Tanzania. Since 1985 he has been employed by SCC. In 1990 he was appointed Senior Development Officer in the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi. From 1993 he was first Senior Programme Officer and then Development Director of SCC. In 1998 he was appointed as Managing Director of SCC.

With such a CV of Karl-Johan Fogelström, we are confident that this change will be for the benefit and further development of ICA.

With co-operative greetings,
Roberto Rodrigues

[ICA President](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

ICA Addresses United Nations General Assembly on June 30

The ICA was one of nine non-governmental organizations invited to address the Special Session of the UN General Assembly which met in Geneva to review implementation of the World Summit on Social Development. This invitation was recognition by the UN of ICA's status as one of the largest representative civil society organizations in the world and a partner to the UN. UN procedure does not permit NGOs to address the General Assembly unless by invitation and after consultation with UN member states.

Bruce Thordarson, former ICA Director General, delivered a statement reminding delegates that the 1995 Copenhagen Programme of Action laid out a series of actions which governments could undertake in partnership with civil society and specifically with co-operatives in their capacity to improve the well-being of members and communities in which they operate. "co-operatives have made an impact on the lives of people worldwide." He noted the contribution of co-operatives in reducing poverty, creating and maintaining jobs and improving social integration for women and men, re-emphasizing that "social justice will not be attainable in societies that do not provide equal opportunities and rights to women..."

He brought to the attention of delegates that the 6th UN International Day of co-operatives would be celebrated around the world on July 1, on the theme of "co-operatives and Employment Promotion".

Mr. Thordarson also reminded participants that "... co-operatives, like other enterprises have seen their operations significantly affected by external challenges in the political and economic environment. Policies which restrict the establishment or functioning of co-operatives - whether by design or by consequence - require revision." He urged the General Assembly to adopt the UN Guidelines in the 2001 session.

In conclusion, he said "ICA is convinced that there is a growing potential for co-operative development, and for co-operative renewal, in light of the limitations of the free market, in regard to social responsibility and equity, the advantages of decentralisation of power, the importance of stakeholder and community involvement in economic and social life, and the growing role of the civil society." He reiterated the commitment of the co-operative movement to effective action in putting social justice at the heart of the global political agenda for the promotion of peace and prosperity.

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22

E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

ICA Accepts Chairmanship of COPAC

ICA President, Roberto Rodrigues, was elected Chairperson of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of co-operatives COPAC at the 60th COPAC Board Meeting held on 28 June 2000 in Geneva. Mr. Rodrigues will serve a two-year term. Ms Jennie Dey-Abbas, Chief, Rural Institutions & Participation Service of the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO will serve as Vice-Chair.

COPAC was established in 1971. It is a successful and on-going partnership between representatives of the co-operative movement, farmers' organizations, and the United Nations and its agencies. Members work together on equal terms to promote and coordinate sustainable co-operative development through policy dialogues, technical co-operation and information, and concrete collaborative activities. Members include the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), International Labour Office (ILO), United Nations (UN), and World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU). For more information on COPAC, see <http://www.copacgva.org>.

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

[Back](#) ^g [Content](#) [Next](#) ⁿ

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

ICA Youth Initiative Is Taking Shape

The ICA working group on Youth Initiative met on June 16, 2000 in Geneva for a brainstorming session. The working group included former ICA Director General Bruce Thordarson, ICA Board Member for youth issues Stefania Marcone, ICA Regional Director for Europe Gabriella Sozanski and Fanja Rasolomanana, co-ordinator for youth initiatives.

The group reached the following conclusion: ICA will foster a network of youth co-operators including ICA member organizations active in this area and will promote youth issues to its members. ICA will encourage youth co-operators activities and will help in promoting them through its activities: meetings, seminars, etc...

The group recognized the necessity not to put youth in a cluster but to integrate young people in all aspects of the co-operative movement: access to membership at national and regional levels for student co-ops or young co-operatives, access to decision-making, integration in all ICA activities and meetings.

The need to work with ICA regional offices and specialised organisations in promoting these issues was also stressed. ICA regional offices in the Americas and Asia have been active in this area for many years. They organize youth camps with ICA member organizations in the region. During the meeting, Ms Stefania Marcone reported on the work done by the Italian movement in this area:

- Promoting education of young co-operators in joint collaboration with Universities: Master Degree in Co-operative Economy with a training opportunity for 3 months within a co-op organization
- Promoting the creation of new co-op societies: by sensitizing youth to start new enterprises based on co-op status, projects involving Universities and High Schools.
- Promoting a new generation of co-op leaders: seminars for young leaders (up to the age of forty), involving them in decision making

There is work to be done as promoting youth covers many issues including: training and education, sensitization on co-op ideals, promotion of new co-op societies, sharing of experiences... to name just a few.

ICA is optimistic, as the Italian co-op movement is not the only one tackling youth issues.

The group's immediate target is to collect information on regions and members' activities on this subject, submit a background paper, strategy and work plan to the ICA Board (Bratislava, October 2000) for approval, prepare a budget for 2001, work on a frame of reference on why young people should be involved and plan for an international youth conference in 2001.

[Fanja Rasolomanana](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

ICA Gender Issues Brought to Attention of International Community

The United Nations General Assembly special session, "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century", also known as Beijing + 5 was held in the first week of June in New York. Over 2,000 organisations were accredited to the session

ICA's institutional achievements in promoting gender equality was made known to the participants by MariaElena Chavez, ICA representative. It was an opportunity to network, to evaluate progress and to share experiences of other organisations on how to implement and promote the agenda on gender issues. Organizations such as UNIFEM, UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Secretariat held information sessions on their activities. They launched publications, held seminars, produced training materials, on issues such as micro-finance and its impact on women, evaluations of progress in gender equality, models for capacity-building in gender awareness (best practices) etc.... Many of the resources presented will be added shortly to the Women's Committee web site (www.coop.org/women)

The official resulting document of Beijing +5 still maintains all of the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In some areas, the Platform has been strengthened. The UN Secretary General is also greatly encouraged at the progress made in dealing with the following issues: actions to combat trafficking, domestic violence and honour crimes, to ensure women's full enjoyment of their rights to health and related services, to empower women economically and politically, and to encourage their full participation in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping, Paragraph 102 k of the official document refers to co-operatives.

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

[Back](#) [Content](#) [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Successful Co-operatives World-Wide Represented At Global Forum

Almost forty speakers have confirmed their presence at Rio Cooperativo (Rio de Janeiro) from December 4-7, says the host's main organiser, Mr Colatto, General Manager, Organisation of Brazilian Co-ops (OCB). Most of them are managers of successful co-operatives, the world over. Oscar Arias, the former Costa Rican president and Nobel Peace Prizewinner has been invited and we have good reason to believe that he will accept.

"Best Practices" is the most useful information for the ICA members. The speakers cover all sectors and geographical areas. Serious effort has been made to reach a reasonable gender balance also.

With over 2,000 participants expected, this is going to be one of the largest co-operative events ever held. A farewell dinner, for over 1,500 people, has been organized for December 7. Mr. Colatto promises a special event but already realizes the necessity for a bigger venue.

Publicity about the event started in 1999 and the President of OCB, Mr Pasquale, is personally travelling around the globe to promote it. The ICA has already sent the formal invitation to members and allies. Deadline for registration is August 31. The full programme and registration form is available from [ICA web site](#)

[Mats Ahnlund](#)

[Back](#) ^g [Content](#) ⁿ [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Co-operators Further Support Kenya Bomb Victims

The Co-operative Bank of Kenya and the Ufundi Savings and Credit Co-operative Society have just received cheques amounting to Fifty One Thousand Swiss Francs. This money will go towards helping them cope with the after-effects of a bomb blast that destroyed their offices in June 1998. The cheque for the Co-operative Bank was handed to Mr. E.K. Mureithi, the Managing Director, by Mr.V.M. Lubasi the ICA Regional Director at the 31st Annual General meeting of the Bank held on May 31, 2000. The Ufundi cheque was collected from the ICA Regional Offices in Nairobi, Kenya.

This support is the second disbursement from the Kenya Solidarity Fund set up following the visit of the ICA President, Roberto Rodrigues to the country in 1998, soon after a massive bomb aimed at the American Embassy exploded in Nairobi. The bomb shattered the adjoining twenty-two-storey Co-operative Bank building and flattened the seven floor offices of Ufundi SACCO. Two hundred and fifty people were killed, including ten employees of the Co-operative Bank and fifty of Ufundi. More than five thousand others, most of them employees and members of co-operatives, were injured. The Co-operative Bank had received Eighty Thousand Swiss Francs and Ufundi SACCO Forty Thousand Swiss Francs from the Fund before this latest disbursement.

ICA Member Organisations, individual co-operators and sympathisers worldwide have contributed money to the Fund.

[Vincent Lubasi](#)

[Back](#) ^g [Content](#) ⁿ [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Korea's Community Credit Co-operatives Report Continued Growth

Despite difficulties in the national economy, Korea's network of 2,126 community credit co-operatives continues to grow, according to the 1999 annual report of the Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives (KFCCC).

Assets increased by 6.5 percent, loans by 31.8 percent, and share capital by 21.6 percent compared with the previous year.

The movement's insurance business reported particularly strong growth, with life insurance contracts up by 99 percent and non-life up by 10.7 percent.

KFCCC joined the ICA in 1994. Its Chairman and President is Mr. Yong Sang Yoo.

[RO for Asia and the Pacific](#)

[Back](#) ^g [Content](#) ⁿ [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

"TQM Practices in Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia" - new publication

The ICA's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has joined forces with the Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) to produce a new book entitled "Total Quality Management Practices in Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia".

Edited by Daman Prakash and G.C. Shrotriya, the 156-page book is based on the technical papers presented at the 14th annual ICA-Japan International Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia, a part of which was held at the IFFCO's marketing development institute.

The book deals with such topics as quality system standards, management of agro-input distribution, warehousing systems, governance, legal frameworks, and management of women's agricultural co-operatives.

For further information, please contact the Publications Officer, ICA Domus Trust Limited, Bonow House, 43 Friends' Colony East, New Delhi 110065, India

[RO for Asia and the Pacific](#)

[Back](#)^g [Content](#) [Next](#)ⁿ

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Co-operative Insurer Issues First Social Report

The Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS) of the U.K. has issued its first Social Report, providing a comprehensive view of how CIS is running its business on behalf of its stakeholder groups (4.5 million customers, 10,500 employees, the co-operative movement, and the wider interests of communities throughout the U.K.).

The CIS Social Accountability programme was launched in May 1999. It includes 24 Key Performance Indicators covering all aspects of business activity including customer service, product performance, claims handling, and complaints.

The report is available on the CIS website at www.cis.co.uk/

[Gabiella Sozánski](#)

[Back](#) [Content](#) [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Danish Consumer Co-operatives Resist Foreign Competition

Despite increased competition from foreign companies, Denmark's consumer co-operatives maintained their leading position in the country's retail market. According to the 1999 Annual Report of Co-op Denmark (FDB), net sales remained at the same level as previous years and net profits rose to 101 million Danish kroner.

Particularly significant was the fact that 95,000 new members joined FDB and the co-operative societies in 1999. Of these, 20 percent were under the age of twenty-nine. Dividends and bonuses for members increased to DKK 355 million. Surveys showed that the satisfaction of members has grown to 71 percent, compared to 51 percent in 1996.

The movement's Samvirke magazine increased its circulation to 490,000, making it the most widely-read monthly magazine in Denmark, reaching half of the country's families. The internal magazine F-Nyt, published weekly for elected representatives and employees, underwent a number of editorial improvements which were seen as being positive in a readership survey. Media attention on the consumer co-operative movement meant that FDB was referred to in the printed and electronic media more than 18,000 times in 1999.

Consumer and environmental issues remained high on the movement's agenda. Efforts to promote the sale of organic products continued with the launching of many new products from FDB's own brand, Natura, and sales of organic products increased by almost 40 percent. FDB's share of organic products is a market-leading 40.3 percent. FDB also stopped the sale of foreign chicken and turkey in order to reduce the risk of salmonella, and became the first company in the world to develop a chicken free from salmonella.

FDB has also intensified its collaboration with consumer co-operative movements in Norway and Sweden, which has resulted in the establishment of a new joint venture, Coop Norden AB.

[FDB web site](#)

[Gabriella Sozánski](#)

[Back](#) [Content](#) [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper](#)
- [Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Chile's Largest Savings and Credit Co-operative Continues to Grow

Coopeuch, the savings and credit co-operative of staff members at the University of Chile, continued its impressive performance in 1999.

According to its Annual Report, loans grew by over 26 percent and the year-end surplus exceeded 22 million U.S. dollars. This enabled the co-operative to improve its equity base in conformity with the requirements of the country's monetary authorities.

Institutional developments during the year included a new credit system which enables loans to be granted within 20 minutes, improved debt collection practices, and a new staff evaluation system.

Mr. Lautaro Cisternas, Lagos, was elected President at the Annual Meeting held on 15 April. Coopeuch's General Manager is Siria Jeldes Chang.

[RO for the Americas](#)

[Back](#)^g [Content](#) [Next](#)ⁿ

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper](#)
- [Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

Us Congress Considers Equity Fund For Co-operatives

A new legislative proposal is currently being considered by Congress to create an equity fund for co-operative development. Supporters of the fund are asking members of Congress to support the appropriation of \$80 million for FY 2001, and \$50 million for FY 2002 in order to provide capital for value-added rural co-operative enterprises and sustain long-term viability of US agriculture and rural communities. In addition to appropriated funds, proponents of the equity fund ask Congress to allow the fund to be run by a private, non-profit entity, base its equity capital on sound business plans, and provide capital only when members put a substantial amount of their own equity at risk.

For more information, contact Sangeeta Sharma of Rural Coalition) and ask for Rural Coalition's recent "Action Alert". ssharma@ruralco.org

(Source: Co-operative Bus List-Server.)

[Back](#) [Content](#) [Next](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@coop.org



Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

UN General Assembly Calls for Support for Co-operatives to Implement Geneva 2000 Recommendations

The negotiations at the General Assembly resulted in an 'outcome document of the Special Session. The document consists of three parts: a political declaration; a review and assessment of implementation of the Social Summit and further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit. The General Assembly recommended that governments should undertake two specific actions; firstly to facilitate the development of co-operatives as a tool in alleviating poverty and helping in the empowerment of poor people and secondly, to establish co-operative business network in order to enhance their countries' productive capacity and competitiveness.

Paragraph 27 bis (k) states:

In the context of comprehensive national strategies on poverty eradication, integrate policies at all levels, including economic and fiscal policies, capacity building and institution-building, and giving priority to investments in education and health, social protection and basic social services, in order to help empower people living in poverty, by:

(k) Encouraging and facilitating the development of cooperatives, where appropriate;

Paragraph 88 states:

Assist Governments in Africa and the least developed countries in enhancing their countries' productive capacity and competitiveness through, inter alia, policies and programmes to support agricultural and industrial diversification, establishment of cooperative business networks, public and private systems for sharing information, promoting technology, and encouraging domestic and foreign investment, especially in the field of technology.

The full outcome document is available in its unedited format at:
<http://www.unog.ch/ga2000/esa/socdev/geneva2000/docs/index.html>

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

[Back](#) ^g [Content](#) [Next](#) ⁿ



E-mail: ica@coop.org

[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

ICA Participates in Millennium Forum

In his message to the ICA Congress in Québec, UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan invited the ICA to be amongst the 1000 organisations to participate in the Millennium Forum "to consult about the future – the future of the peoples of the world – in relation to the great global challenges that must be confronted by the United Nations in the 21st Century".

One of the main outcomes of the Forum was a "Millennium Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action". It identifies the challenges that we as civil society, governments and the United Nations face: poverty eradication, peace and security, globalization, human rights, sustainable development and environment, the strengthening and democratizing of the United Nations and international organizations. It calls for the holding of a Global Civil Society Forum and finding mechanisms for civil society to address the political arm of the United Nations - its General Assembly.

The Forum was an occasion on which the UN Secretary-General re-iterated his commitment to partnership with civil society. The fact that so many people were participating in Millennium Forum was living proof of the commitment to working with the UN to make the world a better place. He said,

"Not only do you bring to life the concept of "We, the Peoples", in whose name our United Nations Charter was written; you bring to us the promise that "people power" can make the Charter work for all the world's peoples in the 21st century."

He praised,

"the pioneering role of NGOs on a range of vital issues, from human rights to the environment, from development to disarmament. We in the United Nations know that during the cycle of world conferences of the last decade, it was you who set the pace on many issues. You did that through advocacy and through action; by pressuring Governments and by working with Governments as partners and implementers."

He concluded, saying,

"With a strong and united voice, you can help us make globalization work in favour of all the world's peoples: you can work to implement the globalization of solidarity."

Further information: <http://www.millenniumforum.org/>

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22

E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)

ICA

- [ICA home](#)
- [ICA Calendar](#)
- [ICA Members](#)
- [ICA Europe](#)
- [ICA Americas](#)
- [ICA Asia-Pacific](#)

ICA Releases

- [E-news Issue 5 - July 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 4 - May 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 3 - April 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 2 - March 2000](#)
- [E-news Issue 1 - February 2000](#)
- [ICA Newspaper Review](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [Other Publications](#)

Co-op Superhighway

- [Home](#)

COPAC Open Forum: "Can Co-operatives Make a Difference?"

If co-operatives are to continue to increase their ability to make a difference, they will require enhanced internal capacities - professional management, committed, enlightened and honest leadership, institutional capacity-building, general membership education and training - in addition to constructive support from governments. This was the unanimous conclusion reached by speakers at the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) Open Forum held in Geneva on June 28, 2000. The revision of [the International Labour Organisation \(ILO\) Recommendation No. 127](#) which will take place at the International Labour Conference in June 2001, was seen by participants as an important instrument for the promotion of co-operatives worldwide.

Mr. Göran Hultin, Executive Director, Employment Sector of the ILO, opened the session by reminding participants of the close links between the ILO and the co-operative movement. The first Director-General of ILO was a co-operator who established the Co-operative Branch at ILO in 1920. Mr. Hultin underlined that co-operatives have a distinct employment creation potential because of their structure and principles.

The ICA President, Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, in his opening remarks spoke about the global context in which co-operatives were operating - a world in which principle and values were being lost, where democracy was being challenged and ultimately human security and peace were at risk. Furthermore, co-operatives provide a future path as they are able to mobilize social capital. They bridge the economic and the social by providing employment, an equitable distribution of profits and above all, social justice. They also address issues of concern such as the environment and food security. However, governments need to be committed in order to fully develop the potential and contribution of co-operatives in maintaining this role.

Presentations made by the US co-operative movement, Crédit Mutuel of France, the Mondragon co-operatives of Spain, SEWA of India, IFAP and the workers' co-operatives in the European region, demonstrated the quantity and quality of the jobs that have already been created. Furthermore, the policies for creating and maintaining decent work were underlined. In some cases, the aim of the co-operative organizations included life improvement of their members and communities in which they operate, specifically through employment. Speakers also highlighted the contribution of co-operatives to making decent jobs available to women and youth. Organised in close collaboration with the ILO, the Forum was one of the side events hosted by the ILO during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Geneva 2000). More information: <http://www.copacgva.org/fora/geneva2000.htm>

[MariaElena Chavez](#)

Last updated: 10 July 2000



15, route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 022 929 88 88 Fax: (+41) 022 798 41 22

E-mail: ica@coop.org



[Copyright © 2000 International Co-operative Alliance](#)