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International Co-operative Day (1996)

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October, 1996

(source : ICA News 4-5/1996, pp.1-2)

International Co-operative Day
United Nations 2nd International Day of Co-operatives

The United Nations Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development organized, jointly with the ICA, a panel discussion on 1 July 1996 at the UN Headquarters in New York on the theme "Partnership between the United Nations and the International Co-operative Movement in the follow-up to Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul". Representatives from the Co-operative Movement joined Nitin Desai, Under Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, to discuss concrete measures that would allow the effective engagement of the Co-operative Movement in the implementation of the strategies adopted in Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul. Under Secretary-General Desai opened the meeting by stressing the special role of the organized segments of civil society - one of the largest being the co-operative movement.

Co-operatives have an important role to play in implementing the programmes of action of the recent global conferences. The aim of the meeting was to identify ways for practical expression of these goals. Mr. Desai pointed out that unlike other segments of civil society, the co-op movement has a unique body which was already bringing together United Nations agencies and NGOs to coordinate their activities in co-operative development. The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) was a good starting point for practical implementation.

Co-op Day in Slovakia

The International Co-operative Day 1996 was widely celebrated in Slovakia this year with representatives from the Government and many foreign visitors attending the festivities which included International Seminar on Systems of Governance and Management in Co-operatives and Management and COOPEXPO'96, the 3rd co-operative exhibition, where a wide range of products from agricultural, workers and consumer co-ops were available as well as a fashion show twice daily.

Another important event which had taken place earlier in the year was also highlighted during the day. this was the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Jurkovic, a founder and pioneer of the co-operative movement in Europe. Commemorative coins and a postcard in honour of and including the portrait and house of Samuel Jurkovic, issued by the philatelists of Brezova pod Bradlom, his native town, were also on sale during the celebrations.

The Union of the Slovak Republic gave prominence to the promotion of the Slovak co-operative movement at national and international level, with the adoption of a new Co-operative Act as one of the principle objectives. The new Act should solve legal obstacles for establishing credit and savings co-operatives, and ease restrictions. A highly successful health insurance co-operative, which was founded only a few years ago and already has over 100,000 members, is just one example of the dynamic changes in Slovakia.

Web Site Launched to Honour International Co-operative Day

The National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA) launched a web site devoted to helping people understand what co-operatives are and how they can use the co-operative model to help themselves and their communities, on the Internet, to celebrate the International Co-operative Day, Saturday, July 6.

The site is located at <http://www.cooperative.org> and the site's home page features areas which lead the viewer to more information about food co-ops, childcare co-ops, housing co-ops, agricultural co-ops, financial co-ops, co-operative economic development, NCBA, and more.

News from the Sectors (1996)

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October, 1996

(Source : ICA News 4-5/1996, pp.3)

News from the Sectors *****

Co-operative Image in the Year 2,000 *****

The ICA Communications Committee and ICA Europe are hosting a Communications Seminar on Co-operative Image in the Year 2,000 which will seek to formulate strategies for enhancing the co-operative image and investigate how the growth of new technologies can benefit co-operative communications and democracy.

The Seminar will take place on 29 October in the Agro Hotel, Budapest, just prior to the ICA Regional Assembly for Europe. Keynote speakers include Byron Henderson from the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, who will discuss the strengthening of community identity among international organizations through the use of electronic networks and Andrew Booth, of World Television, who will explain how television can be used to enhance the co-operative image and discuss a promotional strategy for the ICA and its members. Members of the ICACC Executive, Zahid Qureshi of ICMIF and Iain Williamson of Coop Union, UK, will also be speaking. Mr. Qureshi will talk about harnessing the collective genius of people to create the results they truly desire and Iain Williamson will reflect on the Desk-Top Publishing revolution of the past ten years and its implications for the future.

Agricultural Sub-Committee Resolution on Food Security *****

On June 12, 1996, the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific adopted a resolution on Food Security to be presented at the World Food Summit.

The resolution expressed the willingness of the committee to participate in FAO's efforts in drafting the Policy statement and Plan of action at the World Food Summit which aims at solving global food problems, and hoped that the summit would agree on a solution to the world's food insecurity and unsustainable agricultural development.

The committee also realizes that the Asia-Pacific region, which already has over sixty percent of world's population, will face a rapid increase in population and the demand for more nutritious food. The loss of agricultural land to industrialization and trade liberalization, will be the core of global food problems in the future. The committee believes that family farming is the best regional model to safeguard rural communities and the environment. The resolution urged

governments in the region to provide incentives promoting family farms and co-operatives.

The resolution also noted that the inauguration of the World Trade Organization weakened the economic viability of the small family farms in the region.

On behalf of agricultural co-operatives in the region, the Committee recommended that the vital roles of family farms and agricultural co-operatives, in increasing food production and protecting the environment, should be reflected in the World Food Summit's Policy Statement and Plan of Action.

In Brief

ICMIF Sponsors Workshop

CLIMBS, the Co-operative Life Mutual Benefit Services Association, Inc. of the Philippines organized an ICMIF-sponsored seminar-workshop on possible Philippine Co-op Insurers' Unification at Taal, Tagaytay on September 23-24, 1996.

Environmental Stand

CICOPA is conducting a membership survey on the achievements of co-operatives in supplying healthy, biological and non-polluting products; and in implementing production processes which avoid polluting air, water and the environment in general.

New Constitution

Last June the ICA Consumer Committee for Asia and the Pacific adopted a new constitution which only allows non-member organizations to join the committee if they adhere to co-operative principles and are recommended by the national apex co-operative organization.

News from the Regions (1996)

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(Source : ICA News 4-5/1996, pp.4-5, 9)

New from the Regions

AFRICA

African Regional Assembly

The Second ICA Regional Assembly for Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 16 August under the chairmanship of Bernard Wolimbwa, ICA Vice-President. It was preceded by a seminar on Education, Training, Communication and Information, involving participants from across Africa, and by a strategic planning session for the Regional Office for West Africa (ROWA).

The Regional Assembly endorsed the four-year Regional Development Plan prepared by the Regional Office for East, Central and Southern Africa, as well as the guidelines for ROWA's new four-year programme.

It also welcomed the offer by ICA's Egyptian member organizations to provide facilities for a locally-financed liaison office for North Africa, which could be opened in 1997 to assist the two existing regional offices to extend their services northwards.

The Assembly approved the establishment of a new pan-African Agricultural Committee, as well as a Women's Committee for the West African region. During the West African Regional Council, which preceded the Regional Assembly, the ICA-Director General informed the Assembly that, as part of ICA's efforts to reduce operating costs in Africa, while maintaining its presence in both the sub-regions, serious consideration is being given to transferring the Regional Office for West Africa from Abidjan to a less expensive location. The Regional Director, A.S. Kibora, will keep members informed of progress.

The Assembly accepted the offer from the Zambian Co-operative Federation to hold the 1998 assembly in Lusaka when, according to the agreement between the two regions, a representative from West Africa will be nominated as ICA Vice-President for Africa.

EUROPE

Hungary to Host Regional Assembly

Over 200 delegates from 40 countries will gather at the Agro-Hotel, Budapest from October 24 to 30 for the European Regional Assembly and associated meetings. The main issues for discussion will be East West Collaboration and Corporate Governance and Management Control Systems in European Co-operatives. Meetings of the Specialised Bodies will precede

the Regional Meetings.

ICA to Launch Development Fund

A Development fund for Co-ops in the Third and former Communist Worlds will be launched in Budapest. The ICA Project Development annual budget amounts to some \$10 million; the fund will channel these resources, deriving from the leading Co-operative Movements and development agencies of Europe, North America and Japan. The ICA is appealing to its members to supplement this core funding by further contributions.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Management Training Course

The eleventh ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia will be held from 4 November 1996 to 25 April, 1997, in India, Sri Lanka and Japan. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan will continue to fund this project.

Programmes for Asian Women Leaders

The sixth ICA/Japan Training Course for Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia will be held at the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo, Japan from October 20 to November 16, 1996. Six participants, two each from Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan, will attend.

A regional conference of top level women farm leaders of agricultural co-operatives will be organized in Tokyo from 20-26 October, 1996, jointly by the ICA, IDACA and the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA ZENCHU).

Co-operative Business Development

The third ICA/NACF regional seminar on Agricultural Co-operative Business Development, with special reference to Korean Experience' was held at the Agricultural Co-operative College near Seoul on last May. Participants came from China, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

THE AMERICAS

San Jose : World Capital to the Co-op Movement

The ICA Regional Office for the Americas is preparing a series of events which will make San Jose the Co-operative Movement's capital city, given the importance of the themes addressed and the number of delegates expected. Hundreds of co-operators will attend, the majority from the Americas' region, but with delegations from other regions as well. This is a summary of the events to be held:

A continental forum of women co-operators will be held from 18 - 19 November with the theme: "How many are we and what do we want?" This Forum will open a wide and genuine space to women co-operators from the Americas' continent to discuss their position and expectations regarding the co-operative movement. Experts on the topic will state the gender outlook and its projection towards the next millennium.

The second event is the 1996 Regional Conference "Deglobalization: Global Challenge - Local Markets.... the Co-operative Strategy" to be held 20-22 November. The aim is to strengthen both the knowledge on the globalization process and the alternative ways to face it through the local markets.

Finally, the Regional Assembly of the Americas will take place 23 November and its main goal is the approval of the International Co-operative Alliance Strategy Plan for 1996 - 2000.

World Bank Accord with OCB/ICA

ICA and OCB have signed an agreement with the World Bank to finance projects aimed at small Brazilian producers in the co-operative sector. As per the agreement, resources will be transferred to co-operatives in the states where the project is to be developed. Their federations will be in charge of providing technical assistance, input distribution, marketing and credit for the production and agricultural industries.

USA/Brazil Co-operative Venture

Blue Diamond, one of the largest US co-operatives engaged in the commercialization of almonds and nuts sent a mission to Brazil last July to formalize an agreement with OCB/ICA. The project includes research, planting systematization, technology and commercialization of cashew and Brazil nuts.

Co-op Dream Alive in the Rubble (1996)

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Co-op Dream Alive in the Rubble of Ruamjai

by David Shanks
of the Canadian Co-operative Association

The search is on as Jalan Thuansuwan, 36, steps gingerly over the rubble that was once his home. He has trouble negotiating the broken boards and bottles that litter a patch of earth he once knew like the back of his hand. Careful not to slip into the murky waters of the klung below, Jalan is looking for the spot where he lived for 29 years. Gone is the doorway through which as a young man he proudly brought his bride Thawin and later their newborn son Thawat. Also gone is the wooden porch from whose uneven steps he watched manicured rice fields disappear under Bangkok's relentless advance of buildings, billboards and dusty sidewalks.

Moments later the wiry young man points to a clump of boards near an old shoe. "Here it is!" As Jalan speaks, the back hoe that had flattened his home days earlier is still at work among the rubble of the community.

"The landlord's son was my best friend when I was a boy," says Jalan wiping dust from his eyes. His mother told us we could stay on her land until she died. But now they want to build an apartment here so we must leave." Like dozens of communities caught in Bangkok's breathtaking growth, the 23 families living in Ruamjai Samakkhi are expendable. "The landlord has a bad heart," says Jalan. "Thailand is growing but the heart of the people is not."

But the people of Ruamjai are wrestling back control of their future. With help from the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and a local housing organization called Building Together Association, they joined 31 families from a ten-year-old settlement in nearby Bangna to buy some land of their own. When construction is completed - sometime in 1997/8 - 54 families will make the move to a site in neighbouring Samutprakarn province just 5 km beyond the edge of Bangkok. "We formed our savings group in 1992 and became Muang Mai Phattana Housing Co-operative Ltd.," says Jalan, who joined the co-op board two years ago. This gave members the buying power they needed to arrange a loan from the Urban Community Development Office (UCDO), a Thai agency set up five years ago to give loans to poor people.

Jalan remembers how hard it was at first to set aside money from their meagre income. He earns 8,000 Baht (\$400 CDN) a month as a driver for a municipal welfare agency and, though his income has grown in recent years, the cost of living has jumped dramatically in that same time. Today, each family pays

750 Baht (\$37 CDN) a month towards the loan and an extra 250 Baht (\$12 CDN) to prepare the land for construction. The 20-hectare property is located on wetlands and must be drained and land filled before construction can begin. Their old homes destroyed, families from Ruamjai have already begun to move to temporary housing on the co-op site.

While the co-op promises Ruamjai residents a new lease on life, the road has been long and difficult. The first eviction notice came in 1992. "When we tried to negotiate the landlord took us to court to enforce the eviction," says Jalan. Their legal avenues exhausted, the people of Ruamjai were told to pack up and leave in May. "We asked the landlord to give us two more weeks because our new land wasn't ready but she refused." Unable to leave, the families moved into temporary shelters they hastily built just 50 metres away on land owned by the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority. In all, the landlord compensated the community just 40,000 Baht (\$2,000 CDN).

Jalan was seven years old when his family moved to Ruamjai in 1960. For 29 years Jalan has watched this small farm community become a bustling downtown neighbourhood lost among Bangkok's sprawling urban landscape. Today, his family can only watch helplessly as work crews carve away the last vestiges of Ruamjai life. "Early this morning, I awoke to the sounds of heavy machinery tearing up the road. I ran to my window to see what was happening but before we could react there was a loud noise. The back hoe had broken our water line. Now we have no water and the road to our homes is gone."

Despite the hardships, Jalan says his heart will be heavy the day he leaves Ruamjai for the last time. The place he is moving to is foreign to him and, in a city famous for its traffic jams, will add another two hours to his already long commute to work. "When we picked the new land for the co-op three years ago, I felt it was very remote in the countryside, not close to anything. But there are factories with jobs for our people." The co-op is near Bang Plee New Town, a new high-density village with many apartment buildings and homes. Bang Plee holds the promise of jobs and there are schools, hospitals and services nearby. Jalan now sees a good life in the future and is eager to build a new community without fear of eviction, on land the co-op can call its own.

"Building housing co-ops in Bangkok is an uphill battle," says former BTA director Dr. Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan. It begins by organizing families to create a savings group to pool their modest resources. After lengthy negotiations for a government loan they must find and purchase a piece of affordable land, negotiate with their landlord for compensation and time to remain in their homes until the new land is ready, prepare the land for building and move into temporary housing during construction. There are now 29 housing co-operatives at various stages of development in this city of 8 million. With technical and financial support from CCA, the Building Together Association (BTA) brings government, housing groups, and development agencies together to educate them about the housing situation and to advance co-op housing solutions among the estimated 1,500 slum communities in the greater Bangkok area. Vorratnchaiphan says a newly formed Housing Co-operative Federation plays an important role training members and coordinating and negotiating with concerned agencies for support. It is a welcome ally in securing Muang Mai Phattana Co-op's new home.

Jalan has found the obstacles are not always financial in nature. This year, torrential rains, as well as heated resistance from the National Housing Authority (NHA), caused further setbacks and delays. In the spring, co-op members

literally had to find their way across troubled waters - waters which threatened to flood their land. "We got together and built a bridge over the canal that separates our land from Bang Plee New Town," says Jalan. "Then we applied for a second loan to add landfill to prepare the site for construction." The NHA, which controls the loan fund, stonewalled Muang Mai's attempts to prepare the land and on one occasion arrested and charged their workers with trespassing. Co-op leaders took their complaints to the central government and eventually persuaded NHA to drop the charges and let the work resume.

The co-op then tried to get permission to use a road which runs through NHA land right to the co-op site. The NHA refused. The move effectively barred co-op members from accessing their own land. Far from discouraged, Muang Mai members have emerged from setbacks like these battle-hardened and more determined to succeed than ever. "Sometimes we must fight very hard and sometimes we must withdraw to negotiate," says Jalan. "We are gradually winning the support of the Ministry and now the NHA is not so quick to block our efforts." By applying pressure through UCDO, Muang Mai won temporary access to move onto their land this June. Once we are on the land we will be very powerful."

Muang Mai Phattana Co-op will bring families from two long-standing slum communities to live together in a new way. At first, the members from Ruamjai knew little about their new neighbours from Bangna. But after attending several joint seminars they are very close and plans to move to their new homes are in full swing. "We will build a child care centre and open a shop for our members," says Jalan. "And the co-op will give loans to help members improve their lives. But for now, we have more pressing concerns." The co-op is arranging financing for construction and must build more temporary houses. It must arrange for electricity and get the government to approve the land plots for each home. Jalan has already asked his boss for a truck to move everybody and their belongings to the co-op. "It will take us one or two days to move using a van. We will use whatever material we have on hand to build our new shelters and buy the rest from the market."

Jalan now squats on the narrow wooden bridge gazing out over the co-op site. He sees beyond the solitary tree standing amidst the barren clumps of earth. He sees the future and it is moving toward him. After a long pause he remarks. "It won't be long now before we move into our new homes." Breaking into a broad grin he swings around and adds "...and we won't have to move again!"

World Overview (1996)

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(Source : ICA News 4-5/1996, pp.8-9)

World Overview

Korea

NACF Acts as NGO for the World Food Summit

The National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Korea has taken part in various international activities relating to the World Food Summit to be held in Rome, Italy during November this year. The NACF has assisted in merging co-operatives' view in the drafting of the Policy Statement and Plan of Action.

Churll-Hee Won, Chairman and President of NACF, delivered a special speech entitled 'Food Security and Family Farming' at the meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and Pacific in Malaysia.

NACF was represented at the World Farmers' Congress in Versailles organised by IFAP in April this year and at the Spring NGO meeting for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok. It also participated at the FAO Regional Conference in Apia, West Samoa in May and intends to send representatives to attend the general meeting of ICA-ICAO, the World Family Farmers' Summit and the World Food Summit in Rome in November.

Russia

Consumer Co-ops in Russia

In August Centrosoyus of the Russian Federation invited ICA's European Chairman, Lars Hillbom, and Director-General, Bruce Thordarson, for a week-long study visit to see the current situation facing consumer co-operatives in Russia.

During visits with regional co-operative leaders in Novgorod in the north and Krasnodar in the south, the ICA officials were able to see at first-hand the role which co-operatives are playing in providing basic food stuffs to some 55 million people in the rural areas and small towns. However, given the falling income levels in these areas, and the need to sell goods on credit, few rural co-operatives are able to be profitable these days. As a result, the consumer co-operatives continue to rely on various forms of state assistance through annual agreements at national and regional levels.

The ICA officials concluded that this support was fully justified during this transition stage in the Russian economy, although it must be accompanied by continued efforts to improve the managerial efficiency and member participation in

the co-operatives. In follow-up letters to the Russian President, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the State Duma, they requested early passage of amendments to the current law on consumer co-operatives, which would prevent the sell-off of co-operative property by ensuring that co-operative property belongs to the co-operatives as juridical persons, as is now allowed under the new Russian Civil Code.

Switzerland

25 years of Environmental Concern

Protection of the environment has been included in the statutes of Coop Switzerland since 1973. Since then, priorities have been defined, directives have been given and plans are now implemented, designed to preserve water resources, reduce packaging and energy consumption, eliminate CFCs, collect used batteries, promote recycling, and introduce into the Co-op stores a wide range of ecological products.

Coop Switzerland has engaged in an extensive education campaign. It recognizes that environmental protection can only begin by individual awareness. Safeguarding the environment is the concern for every one. Information material, such as brochures, pamphlets and colouring books for children have therefore been produced and articles regularly appear in the Coop's weekly magazine (in French, German and Italian) as well as in a magazine designed for staff with environmental responsibilities - Coop Ecorama.

Environmental logos provide quick and easily recognizable information to consumers. These include for non-food items, CoopNaturaline and CoopECOplan and food items CoopNATURApplan indicating organic production.

Coop Switzerland has published an Environment Report for 1995 tracing how it has realized its commitment to the environment over the last 25 years. Copies are available in French and German from Coop Switzerland, Public Relations, Postfach 2550, 4002, Basel, Switzerland.

(Coop rapport sur l'environnement 1995)

United Kingdom

Top Line-up for Fifth UKCC Forum

The UKCC Forum, which is a unique occasion in the co-operative calendar, brings together representatives from the co-operative sector in the UK, will be held at New Century House, Manchester, 22-23 November, 1996.

Frank Field, MP; Baroness Cumberlege; Gavin Grant of the Body Shop; Brian Davis of Nationwide Building Society; Alan Sneddon of the Co-operative Insurance Society and Sara Parkin, formerly of the Green Party will be the keynote speakers. Frank Field, Chairman of the Select Committee on Social Security and former opposition spokesman on Education will be the after dinner speaker on Friday evening.

Lord Carter, Chairman of UKCC and opposition spokesman in the House of Lords will open the Forum, followed by a review of current opportunities for co-operative sectors by Peter Walker, the Chief Executive of UKCC.

Sara Parkin, Director, Forum for the Future, will look at how

the co-operatives can best turn the recently adopted 7th Principle of ICA, 'Concern for Community' into reality. David Thompson, former Vice President of the National Co-operative Business Association and Director of National Co-operative Bank, will give a presentation on Co-operatives in America. To get a copy of the Forum programme and booking form, contact the UKCC, c/o The Co-operative Bank plc, 1, Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP; Tel. 0161-829-5355; Fax: 0161-832-9707.

Labour Leader Opens New CRS Headquarters

Labour Party leader, Tony Blair officially opened the Co-operative Retail Society's new 20 million headquarters in Rochdale, on 29th August, 1996. The CRS venture is the single largest investment of its kind in Rochdale in the last 50 years.

- Co-operative News, August 6, 1996

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Electronic Networking and the Internet (1996)

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Electronic Networking and the Internet

New On the ICA WEB

The ICA Web Site has recently launched pages in Spanish, French and German which can be accessed at <http://www.coop.org>. Please inform the Communications Department of any new co-operative sites in English, French, Spanish and German so that these can be added to the site and advertised in the ICA News.

UWCC & ICA Partnership

University of Wisconsin Co-operative Center has been incorporating the Internet into its co-operative outreach and extension work for over two years. Since the beginning the UWCC has been working with the International Co-operative Alliance, Geneva, and Director of Communications, Mary Treacy.

Since the visit of Ms. Treacy in November 1995 and after sharing the Internet projects of ICA and UWCC with representatives of the Madison-area co-operative organizations, the UWCC and ICA have worked out a more formal agreement for collaborating. ICA will continue to provide information from its members for inclusion in the Co-operative Gopher, which is a searchable database of articles and information. UWCC will set up and maintain ICA databases on the Gopher and provide technical assistance.

The UWCC Co-operative Gopher can be reached at <gopher://wiscinfo.wisc.edu:70/11/.info-source/.coop>. The information is also available through the web sites maintained by ICA (<http://www.coop.org>) and UWCC (<http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc>).
(UWCC Working Together vol.4 No.1)

ICA to Extend Collaboration

ICA intends to extend its collaboration in 1997 to include projects with other universities and organisations.

In 1996, besides working with the University of Wisconsin, ICA has been collaborating with a number of organisations including the UK Society of Co-operative Studies and the University of Leicester, helping to develop their presence on the Internet and publicize their activities.

In 1997 the ICA will collaborate extensively with the University of Saskatchewan Centre for the Study of Co-operatives on a new project to develop the multi-media

potential of the Internet to promote the Co-operative Image.

A project with the University of Moncton in Canada to set up a French Data Bank of ICA Statistics on the Web is also planned for next year and the ICA has recently had discussions with Marcel Roy, Chaire de Cooperation at the University of Quebec, to discuss possible joint ventures.

ICA Members and the Internet

WOCCU Launches Home Page

The World Council of Credit Unions has launched a home page on the Internet, at: <http://www.woccu.org>, on June 1. The home page contains general information about the World Council and its programmes, activities and meetings, the World Council's Newsletter Perspective and links to other credit union and co-operative organizations.

Co-op Bank's Electronic Mail

The Co-operative Bank used the latest technology to ensure all staff saw the International Co-operative Day message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to the 2nd United Nations International Day of Co-operatives, by using the bank's electronic mail system, which can be accessed by all the bank's staff.

JCCU on the Internet

The Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU) has established a home page on the internet, giving details on the consumer co-operative movement in Japan. The site can be accessed at: <http://www.jccu.or.jp/jccu>. JCCU also has a new e-mail address for its International Dept: jccu-int@mx.meshnet.or.jp.

ICA E-mail Addresses

General: ica@coop.org
Mats Ahnlund: members@coop.org
Marie-Claude Baan: development@coop.org
MariaElena Chavez-P: chavez@coop.org
Vivianne Dubini: admin@coop.org
Jan-Eirik Imbsen: development@coop.org
Aline Pawlowska: info@coop.org
Arsenio Invernizzi: ica-europe@coop.org
Gabriella Sozanski: ica-europe@coop.org
Bruce Thordarson: thordarson@coop.org
Claes Thorselius: thorselius@coop.org
Mary Treacy: treacy@coop.org
Laura Wilcox: communications@coop.org
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Co-op People (1996)

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(Source : ICA News 4-5/1996, pp.11)

Co-op People

Professor Ungku A. Aziz, the President of ANGKASA, has been elected as the new Chair of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific for a period of two years, from June 1996. Prof. Aziz was also re-elected as Chair of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development for Asia and the Pacific. Mohd. Sahid Ullah, General Secretary of the Bangladesh National Co-operative Union (BJSU) has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the ICA Regional Assembly.

Dean Luis Damiles Carrillo has been elected as the Chair of the National Confederation of Co-operatives Inc. (NATCCO), Philippines, at their 1996 Congress and General Assembly from May 28 - June 2. He succeeds Atty. Adolfo A. Ibanez.

S. Chandra, Managing Director of Fishcopfed, India, has been elected as Chair and H. Eddiwan of Indonesia as the Vice-Chair of the ICA Fisheries Committee for Asia and the Pacific at its 21st meeting in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia on 10 June 1996.

Lars Hillbom, ICA Vice President, Europe, has been appointed as Head of the newly formed KF International Department. Jan Ahlen, Margareta Carlsson and Stig H. Lindhe are staffing the department which will cover a number of new projects, international relations, new business opportunities, and relations with the European Union.

Akira Kurimoto from the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union has been elected Vice-chair of the ICA Research Committee in addition to Lou Hammond Ketilson from Saskatchewan University Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and Yohanan Stryjan from the Stockholm School of Business, Sweden.

Tan Kin Lian, CEO of NTUC INCOME and Chair of the ICMIF, has been elected as the new Chairman of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) at the 6th Triennial General Assembly of the Federation on 21 September.

Tom Lyon, NCBA President, Russ Notar, CEO of NCBA & Ralph Page, NCBA Board Member were appointed to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economic Advisory Board of the United States Development Agency (USDA) in September 1996. Lyon and Page have also been elected to the nine-member executive committee.

Hiroshi Tanaka, Vice-President of the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), has been elected Chair of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, during its meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12 June

1996, while Lim Ho Seng of Singapore has been re-elected as the Vice-chair.

Terry Thomas, Managing Director of the UK Co-operative Bank, has received an honorary degree (Doctor of Letters honoris causa) from Salford University in recognition of his contribution as an innovative Manchester-based businessman and his work in furthering the partnership between business and academia.

Obituaries

Yves Regis, Chairman of CICOPA and former President of C.G.S.C.O.P. (1974-1987) died on 9 September 1996, at the age of 76. His energy and dedication will be sorely missed.

The worker co-operative movement also lost another well-known co-operator in September, Bohdan Trampczynski, who died in Warsaw at the age of 83. He was a former president of the Central Union of Workers Co-operatives in Poland and another former Chairman of CICOPA.

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For further details please contact:

Dr. Peter Davis
Director
Unit for Membership Based Organisations
The Management Centre
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 55 17
Fax: 0116 252 39 49
E-mail: pd8@le.ac.uk

ICA CALENDER *****

11-14 October 1996
ICMIF Meetings
Wiesbaden, Germany

22-23 October 1996
ICA-LEGA-Confcoop. Seminar
Imola, Italy

24-25 October 1996
ICBA Exec. & Plenary
Budapest, Hungary

25-26 October 1996
CICOPA-CECOP Executive
Budapest, Hungary

26 October 1996
Research Committee
Budapest, Hungary

26-27 October 1996

ICA Board.

Budapest, Hungary

27 October 1996

IHCO (Health) European Consultation

Budapest, Hungary

27-29 October 1996

ICA-IRU Board & Seminar

Budapest, Hungary

28 October 1996

Global HRD Executive

Budapest, Hungary

28 October 1996

INTER-COOP Meetings

Budapest, Hungary

28 October 1996

Housing Executive

Budapest, Hungary

28 October 1996

ICA Audit & Control Committee

Budapest, Hungary

27 - 28 October 1996

Research Workshop

Budapest, Hungary

28 October 1996

ICA Consumer (ICCO).Exec./Plenary

Budapest, Hungary

28-29 October 1996

ICACC Executive & Seminar

Budapest, Hungary

29 October 1996

ICA European Council

Budapest, Hungary

30 October 1996

Reg. Assembly for Europe

Budapest, Hungary

2 November 1996

2nd Meeting of Asian Health Co-ops

Bombay, India

11 November 1996

International Co-op Agricultural.Org.

Rome, Italy

16-17 November 1996

ICA Global Women's Execo/Plenary

San Jose, Costa Rica

18-19 November 1996

First Americas' Continental Forum on Women and Co-ops

San Jose, Costa Rica

20-22 November 1996

ICA Reg.Assembly for the Americas

San Jose, Costa Rica

22 November 1996

IHCO Founding Meeting and Open GA
San Jose, Costa Rica

30 Nov - 1 Dec. 1996
ICA ROAP Symposium
Yangon, Myanmar

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