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## Issue 7 - 2001



*Byron Henderson, President, DotCooperation LLC,  
Maria Elena Chavez, Deputy Director-General,  
Paul Hazen, President & CEO, NCBA*

### Signing the .coop governance agreement.

The promotion of the Co-operative Identity is why ICA has since from the beginning fully supported .coop and why today it is one of the partners in DotCooperation LLC (DCLLC), the company that will manage the .coop domain name. ICA signed an official agreement with DCLLC and the National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA) at the home of the Rochdale Pioneers on Toad Lane which sets out the specifics of the partnership and will ensure that .coop responds to the needs of the international co-operative community. [More on .coop and its global launch - 30 January 2002](#)

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## MEN AND WOMEN WORK TOGETHER IN THE ICA GENDER EQUALITY COMMITTEE

The ICA Gender Equality Committee has voted into membership women and men co-operators to help develop practical means to promote gender equality and equal opportunity in the co-operative movement. At its recent Plenary meeting in Seoul, Korea, the Committee elected 33 members including 5 men from the co-operative movements of Bolivia, Greece, Israel, Russia, and Senegal. Re-elected as Chair of the Committee, Vanda Giuliano of Legacoop Italy said she was pleased to see that the ICA GEC members were representative of the ICA regions and that it included a number of both men and women ICA Board members. This group of committed individuals should be able to make effective progress in promoting gender issues with the ICA.

The ICA GEC work programme will focus its attention in 2002 on food security and food safety from a gender perspective, and the issue of women's employment: opportunities and quality of work. It will also organize a joint seminar with ICA Housing to examine gender issues in housing co-operatives.

For more information on the ICA GEC, see <http://www.coop.org/gender>

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**TOURISM CO-OPS FORM THE TICA NETWORK**

The ICA specialised body, TICA, has formally transformed itself into a Network. The decision taken at the annual general meeting of TICA in Seoul (October 2001) will enable a larger group of both large and small tourism co-operatives from around the world to participate in the activities of TICA without the payment of a membership fee. The Network already comprises 70 co-ops and is actively seeking new members to share information and participate in activities including business meetings, the first of which will be held in Mexico City in May 2002. Other events could be organised in occasion of international tourism trade fairs such as the one to be held in Milan next February 2002.

The TICA Network plans to strengthen its ties with BITS (International Organisation for Social Tourism), whose activities are dramatically increasing in the area of social tourism but also in that of youth and student tourism. The Network will also continue its collaboration with the World Tourism Organisation (WTO).

Co-operatives that take part in Network will receive information periodically from the Secretariat in Geneva.

More information: contact Maurizio Davolio (e-mail: [mdavo@tin.it](mailto:mdavo@tin.it))

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**SNCF leads implementation on "Co-operatives and Peace"**

"Co-operatives: Democracy & Peace" is now accompanying the signature on e-mail sent by staff of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF). SNCF is the first member organisation that is implementing the ICA General Assembly resolution that calls on members to reaffirm their commitment and give greater visibility to the role of co-operatives in defending democracy and promoting peace by including the phrase, "Co-operatives: Democracy and Peace" in their communications. Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chief Executive of SNCF has also requested its affiliates in Singapore to taking similar measures. He also challenged ICA members in saying, "I hope to see more co-operatives implement the resolution that was adopted. We have to implement what we say."

For more information contact: [Tan Kin Lian](#)

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**UN set to officially recognise UN Guidelines on co-operative development**

Internationally recognised guidelines to assist governments in adopting enabling policies for co-operative development and growth are expected to be passed by the UN General Assembly in late December 2001. On 24 October 2001, the United Nations Third Committee of the General Assembly unanimously agreed to put forward a draft resolution which will bring official recognition by the UN "Guidelines aimed at creating a support environment for the development of co-operatives".

This official recognition marks the end of a long process of consultation and lobbying by the ICA. The guidelines were drafted by representatives of the co-operative movement and submitted to the UN through the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC). Despite editing changes by Governments, the content of the guidelines remains essentially the same as that drafted by the co-operative movement and will provide an excellent guide for governments who wish to reform their legislation and policy. Co-operatives will also find them extremely useful in approaching government to negotiate changes in existing laws and administrative practices.

The UN guidelines are available in English on the web at:

<http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/docs/2001/e2001-68.pdf>

in the annex of the UN Secretary-General report.

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**CO-OPERATIVES FEATURED AT UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

The fight against poverty is a global battle where co-operatives can make a contribution in countries across the world was the conclusion of the panel discussion organised by the United Nations Secretariat for delegates to the United Nations General Assembly held on 17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Representatives of ICA member organisations (the Canadian Co-operative Association and the World Council of Credit Unions), joined by the Co-operative College of Tanzania presented their experiences on how co-operatives were contributing to the UN objective of a 50 percent reduction of world poverty by the year 2015. The panel solicited numerous questions and a lively interchange of views on the co-operative model as one of important answers to the challenges of poverty. It also drew attention to the current discussions on adopting UN Guidelines for co-operative development as well as the ILO initiative for a recommendation on co-operatives.

ICA was unable to directly participate due to the fact that it was holding its General Assembly in Seoul, Korea on the same day of the panel discussion, but contributed to its organization by helping to identify panelists and making materials on co-operatives and poverty eradication available.

More information: see UN press release at:

<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2001/povertypc.doc.htm>

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**New Web site on ILO and co-operatives**

The web site of the Coop Branch of the International Labour Office (ILO) not only has a new look, but also includes a new and wide variety of useful information on co-operatives. With sections on ‘policy and law’, ‘human resource development and networking’, ‘employment through self-help’, ‘co-operatives and gender’ and ‘indigenous peoples’, the web site highlights the major areas of work of the ILO in the promotion of co-operatives. The site also includes the proposed recommendation on co-operatives (the revision of ILO Recommendation 127) now available on-line in English, French and Spanish.

The ILO Coop Branch is one of ICA’s major partners working together to ensure that the co-operative method is universally recognised as the most effective means of empowering people and eradicating poverty by creating sustainable economic opportunities, preventing social exclusion and promoting solidarity and equality.

See: [http://oracle02.ilo.org/empent/empent.Portal?p\\_prog=C](http://oracle02.ilo.org/empent/empent.Portal?p_prog=C)

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## Argentinean Co-operatives Condemn Terrorism

On 4 October 2001 ICA members in Argentina issued the Buenos Aires Declaration strongly condemning the terrorist acts of 11 September 2001 and underlining the need to promote solidarity and co-operation among people to combat violence. ICA's seven co-operative members plus the Director of the Project Office in Buenos Aires signed the Declaration.

The Declaration follows the ICA statement which denounced all acts of terror and reiterated the need for the peoples of the world to find peaceful solutions in respect of humanity.

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## TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING MANUAL: CLOSING THE GENDER GAP

Transforming co-operatives to more democratic, more caring organizations and promoters of gender equality and equity is the aim of the Trainers' Manual on Transformative Leadership Training for Co-operatives. Published by the Asian women in Co-operative Development Forum (AWCF), the manual presents information and strategies needed to advocate transformative leadership where co-op leaders and their co-ops are development oriented, issue-focused, and gender sensitive. Looking at both internal and external challenges and opportunities, the manual addresses issues such as globalisation, power and decision-making, and the expression of Co-operative Values and Principles in all the activities of co-operatives that are socially responsible. Transformative leadership ensures that co-operatives are responsive to the economic, social and cultural needs to all members women and men.

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## JCCU HEALTHY FOOD INITIATIVES

Food safety continues high on the JCCU agenda. Two recent initiatives demonstrate how JCCU has encouraged members to increasing focus attention on the importance of good and healthy food.

**Good Food, Good Life**, a book regrouping 100 of the top recipes and anecdotes about the recipes submitted by members to promote the importance of eating will be published on the occasion of JCCU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With more than 7000 entries from 86 co-operative societies from around Japan submitted and over one million copies already sold, members have confirmed their high interest in healthy as well as good food.

JCCU too is a watchdog for consumer food safety. With a recent case of Mad Cow Disease found in Japan, JCCU has reiterated its demand to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to strengthen measures to combat and deal with Mad Cow Disease. It provided the ministries with a list of specific measures to be taken. JCCU and Japanese co-ops will continue to demand that the government provide certifiable and accurate examination of all meat for Mad Cow Disease so that consumers can continue to consume meat without fear.

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