



ica News

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

Issue No 4/1999

Editor: Purushothaman Nair

Co-editor: Amelia M. Morgado

ICA Millennium Congress, Québec City, Canada

Focus on Success

The more than 1,300 participants from 80 countries who took part in the ICA's Millennium Congress in Québec City, Canada, appeared to agree that it achieved its goal of providing useful information and examples of how co-operatives have demonstrated innovation and success around the world.

According to ICA's Director-General Bruce Thordarson, "Our members told us during the Organisational Review that they wanted ICA to be a source of information and exchange about practical issues that are of importance to co-operatives in their day-to-day business activities. That is why we used the case study approach so extensively this year."

More than 40 speakers participated in the Plenary Sessions as well as in three Business Forums that dealt with the areas of Financial Services, Food, and New Co-operative Services.

In his speech at the Opening Ceremony, ICA President Roberto Rodrigues called on governments to recognise the role of co-operatives in striving to reduce the exclusion that results from globalisation. He said that ICA would provide member orga-



Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President, with Bruce Thordarson and Mu Li, Vice President for Asia and the Pacific

nisations with a letter that they could use with their own governments.

In a specially-prepared video message for the Congress, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said: "You support us and we do our best to support you. The Guidelines we have drawn up aimed at helping States create a favourable legislative and administrative climate for co-operatives will be discussed at the General Assembly this autumn."

On the third day of Congress, 50 youth participants presented an inspiring message about the

importance of youth involvement in co-ops.

Roberto Rodrigues said that he would recommend to the Board that the ICA create a "Youth Commission" in response to their request.

To wrap up the Congress, Canada's Ian MacPherson provided an analysis and summary of the three days of activity. The overall message, he said, was "optimism".

The texts of the presentations made during the Congress are on the ICA Web Site (www.coop.org).



15, route des Morillons - 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Genève, Suisse

Tel.: (41-22) 929 88 88 - Fax: (41-22) 798 41 22

E mail: ica@coop.org - Website: <http://www.coop.org>



Elections to the ICA Board



The ICA Board during their meeting on August 27, 1999 at Lévis, Québec

The Québec General Assembly filled five vacancies which had occurred in the ICA Board since its members were elected for a four-year term in 1997.

- Ousseynou Dieng of Senegal was ratified as ICA Vice-President (Africa), replacing Bernard Wolimbwa of Uganda.
- Miguel Cardozo of Uruguay was ratified as ICA Vice-President (Americas), a position he had held on an acting basis following the election of Roberto Rodrigues as ICA President in 1997.
- Mu Li of China was elected as ICA Vice-President (Asia and the Pacific), replacing Yang Deshou of China.
- Mutsutami Harada of Japan was elected to the Board, replacing Hiroshi Kohno of Japan.
- James Olesitse of Botswana was elected to the Board, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Bernard Wolimbwa of Uganda.

The ICA Board decided at its meeting in Québec to create two new Board Committees to deal with Finance and Development. The two Committees will meet together in Geneva on October 27.

Youth add value

More than 50 young people from all corners of the world joined together at a Youth Forum, which culminated at the ICA Congress in Québec.

The theme of the Forum was "Adding Value to Membership: The Contribution of Youth at the Turn of the Century".

The young co-operators were able to participate in the various business sessions of the ICA Congress and presented a report at the plenary session of the Congress, giving the views of the youth on co-operative values.

The International Health Co-operative Organisation

The International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO), met in Québec during the ICA Congress. The IHCO is working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Office (ILO) on a project to establish a model health care system in Nepal.

Supporting new health co-ops and contacts with the UN system, particularly WHO, are among IHCO priorities for the next few years. A third priority for IHCO is regional development.

The International Co-operative and Associative Tourism Organisation (TICA)

The ICA Board which met in Québec on August 27, 1999 endorsed the revamped action plan of TICA.

Maurizio Davolio President of TICA said that they are seeking to be a truly global organisation for tourism, providing services to business as well as its members.



Some serious music - at the Farewell Dinner





Intercoop and ICCO merge to form CCI

In merging the International Co-operative Consumer organisation and the Intercoop, a new body, Consumer Co-operative International (CCI) has been created at the joint meeting of ICCO and Intercoop at Québec. The CCI will concentrate on five main areas: exchange of experience; support to working groups; contacts with other organisations; development of consumer co-operatives; and strengthening CCI's structure, both globally and regionally.

The CCI has planned to organise seminars for the ICA Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2000 and ICA General Assembly in Korea during 2001.

New president for ICHO

Jeus Heiser, an ICA Board member took over as President of International Co-operative Housing Organisation at its Québec meeting.

A workshop run by the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada discussed ways that member organisations could collaborate more effectively.



Delegates at the ICA Congress

Gender Issues

The ICA Global Women's Committee met in Québec City to identify and evaluate new ways to progress the implementation of the resolution on gender equality.

At a conference on the theme "Added Value through Women's Participation: The Enhancement of Co-operative Opportunities and Performance", speakers presented case studies.

A keynote presentation was made by the Canadian International Development Agency on CIDA's new gender policy. ICA Regional Directors reported on the activities undertaken in their regions to raise gender awareness and assist members in introducing change.

International Co-operative Research Forum

"Values and Enterprise for Co-operative Advantage" was the theme of the Research Forum held in Québec August 28-29, 1999. More than 50 papers were presented at 17 sessions. Kai Blomqvist, Akira Kurimoto, Jessica Nembhard, Curtis Hayes, and several others stressed the need to "Change through Co-operation", "Social Audits", "Evaluating performance by Co-operative Values and Efficiency".

It is expected that another Forum will be held in Singapore during the next Regional Assembly in 2000.

ICACC seminar on Lobbying Know-how

A seminar on "Lobbying Know-how: Influencing Decisions of the Decisions Makers" was held on August 29, 1999, in Québec.

Zahid Qureshi, Senior Vice President of Development and Communications of ICMIF, moderated the session, while Paul Hazen of NCBA, USA, Lloyd Wilkinson of the Co-operative Union, UK and Akiyoshi Yoshizawa of JCCU, Japan, made presentations at the Seminar.



Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President and Jack Schaffer with Jack's new book "Historical Dictionary of the Co-operative Movement".





General Assembly approves New ICA Strategy

The highlight of the ICA's business session in Québec City, according to President Roberto Rodrigues, was the General Assembly's approval of the report "ICA 2005". This report contains the Conclusions, Vision Statement, and Action Plan resulting from the Organisational Review initiated by the Board in April 1998. In his presentation to the General Assembly, ICA Director-General Bruce Thordarson described the outcome of the review as "not revolution, but rather accelerated evolution".



The report is printed in the ICA's Review of International Co-operation, no. 2, 1999.

The spectacular show at the Opening of the Congress

Future Meetings

The year 2000 is a "Regional Assembly year" for ICA. Members will meet in Singapore (Asia-Pacific), Cotonou (Africa), Bratislava (Europe), and Rio de Janeiro (Americas).

The Americas Regional Assembly will be combined with a Congress of the Organisation of Co-

operatives of Brazil as well as a Global Forum of ICA.

Organisation of Co-operatives of Brasil President Dejandir Dalpasquale invited General Assembly participants to go to Rio de Janeiro during the first week of December 2000. Planning has already begun for the ICA's next

General Assembly, to be held in Seoul, Korea.

Chung Dae-Kun, President, National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, invited ICA members to the 'Land of the Morning Calm' in 2001.

ICA CALENDAR

- September 20-21, 1999
2nd European Development Workshop
Budapest, Hungary
- October 11-16, 1999
5th Minister's Conference
Beijing, China
- October 14-17, 1999
ICA European Research Conference
Weimar, Germany
- October 26, 1999
COPAC Open Forum
Berlin, Germany
- November, 1999
32nd meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific
Bali, Indonesia
- November 10-14, 1999
Regional Seminar on Co-operative Tourism
Langkavi, Malaysia
- Nov. 12, 99 to April 22, 2000
14th ICA/Japan Management Training Course for Agricultural Co-operatives
India, Thailand and Japan



Delegates to the ICA Congress pose for a photo at the Welcome reception

The next ICA General Assembly will meet in Seoul, Korea during September 2001