

# Table of Contents (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996)

ICA News Issue No.6/1996

Table of Contents

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Co-operatives and Food Security	-1
Canadian Co-ops and Credit Unions Forge International Links	- 2
NCBA Releases New Video "The ABCs of Co-op Childcare"	- 3
News from the Regions	-4-5
Highlights of the ICA Board Meeting	- 8
Pioneers on the Tourist Map - in Six Languages	- 9
World Overview	- 9-10
United Nations	- 11
Co-op People	- 12
ICA Calendar	- 12

# Co-operatives and Food Security (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.1)

## Co-operatives and Food Security \*\*\*\*\*

ICA was able to present the views of the co-operative movement to the World Food Summit in November in Rome, Italy, with invaluable assistance from the International Agricultural Co-operative Organization. After having provided input to the preparatory meetings, ICA presented its final statement to the World Food Summit highlighting the contribution of co-operatives to the production and distribution of food, but most importantly the role of co-operatives in providing the income and employment that are essential to food security.

The ICA also forged partnerships with other organizations in order to ensure that the important role of co-operatives to food security was highlighted. A joint statement of the Agri-Food Sector emphasized that food production, its distribution and the raw materials necessary for feeding the world were core concerns for the private sector - i.e all business elements in the food chain - from the individual and family farms, via co-operative enterprises right through to multi-national corporations.

Both the ICA and the private sector statements were circulated to the delegates of the World Summit. Copies are available from the ICA Secretariat.

The outcome of the Summit was the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action. It recognizes "the fundamental role of farmers, fishers, foresters, indigenous people and their communities, and all other people involved in the food sector, and of their organizations, supported by effective research and extension, in attaining food security". It further identifies specific areas where there is a need for dialogue and more importantly partnerships between government and farmers (fishers and foresters) and their representative organizations with two specific paragraphs dedicated to the role of co-operatives.

ICA and the ICAO are already discussing the follow-up to the Summit and will continue to work with their new partners to further contribute to ensuring that people have sufficient food.

The Rome Declaration and Plan of Action is available on the Internet (<http://www.fao.org/wfs/policy/policy.htm>) or from the FAO, via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.

# Canadian Co-ops and Credit Unions Forge International Links (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.2-3)

Canadian Co-ops and Credit Unions Forge  
International Links

by John Julian\*  
of the Canadian Co-operative Association  
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At first glance, Fort St. John in B.C.'s Peace River District, in the extreme northwest of Canada, might seem to have very little in common with the town of Lichtenburg in the sun-baked Transvaal region of South Africa. Yet these two far-flung communities share a powerful connection.

The strongest link is a human one. Ingrid Fischer is the general manager of North Peace Savings and Credit Union in Fort St. John.

In 1994 she spent seven months in the Transvaal sharing her expertise with a tiny, emerging credit union in Lichtenburg. Another connection is the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), the national association of co-operatives and credit unions in the English speaking areas of Canada. In addition to various domestic roles, CCA is the international development arm for its Canadian members. It initiated and continues to support the partnership with credit unions in British Columbia that took Ingrid Fischer to South Africa.

A third link between these two communities, according to Fischer, is a shared belief in the power of co-operation in strengthening communities. "Both credit unions arise from needs within the communities they serve," Fischer said. "Here, farmers needed access to credit that they couldn't get from banks. My experience in South Africa is that black people have great difficulty in getting credit. In both cases we had a need that was not being met, and a group of people within the community who were willing to work together to meet that need."

North Peace Savings and Credit Union, with assets of Canadian \$63 million and more than 6,500 members has been an engine of economic growth and stability in a region which suffers from the vagaries of a resource based economy. In Lichtenburg, with Ingrid Fischer's help, Itireleng Credit Union has doubled its asset base to more than 1 million rand (Canadian \$400,000), allowing its 170 members to improve their housing, to purchase vehicles, and to finance the education of their children.

For more than 20 years CCA has helped to link the co-operative system in Canada with emerging organizations in the developing world. With the financial backing of the Federal government through the Canadian International Development Agency, Canadian

co-operatives have assisted thousands of co-operative organizations in more than 40 countries to strengthen communities and improve income levels for members. Co-operatives and credit unions contribute money to the cause, and each year more than fifty co-operative employees and leaders, like Ingrid Fischer, contribute their skills and experience.

The fact that co-operatives worldwide operate from a common set of principles provides a common base of understanding that makes it easier to transfer specific skills or expertise. And because of the success of co-operative ventures in this country, Canadian expertise is much in demand.

The partnership that CCA has developed between the credit unions of British Columbia and South Africa is a case in point. In spite of a well developed banking sector, the majority of black South Africans have had no access to the financial services they need in order to develop economically. Credit co-ops are filling that need.

Kwedie Mkalipi, a former anti-apartheid activist who served 18 years in prison for his opposition to the former regime, is general secretary of the Savings and Credit Co-operative League of South Africa.

"Because of the apartheid system, we were very isolated when we first sought to develop our movement," Mkalipi said recently. "We went looking for help within South Africa but the advice received came from people who did not understand co-operatives. It was like asking directions from a one-eyed man. He will point you in the only direction he can see."

"With CCA we entered into a true co-operative partnership. Others had said, 'That is the way to Jericho. Go that way.' CCA said, 'We know the road to Jericho. Travel with us'."

Helping the development of the co-operative movement in a poorer country can lead to business opportunities and other benefits for the donor co-operatives. Because co-operatives have a business focus, it is not uncommon for development partnerships to evolve into business relationships. For example, for more than 10 years CCA, in partnership with the Colombian Association of Co-operatives (ASCOOP), has provided support to small co-operatives serving the poor of that country. Today, a self-sufficient ASCOOP continues to provide those services on its own.

However, at a time of rapidly expanding trade relations between the two countries, CCA has maintained its involvement in Colombia in order to help co-operatives on both sides of the equation capitalize on the commercial possibilities.

Luis Arturo Munoz, general manager of ASCOOP, describes this as a maturing of the relationship between the two organizations. CCA, he says, provided support when it was needed, but it also pushed ASCOOP to become self-sufficient. Now, as equals, CCA and ASCOOP are researching various business opportunities, such as importing tropical fruit from Colombia into Canada.

While commercial activities in Colombia are still at the research stage, CCA's work in other countries has yielded concrete commercial results. In Costa Rica, for example, beans are now being purchased from Alberta Wheat Pool, a CCA member organization. B.C. Tree Fruits, another CCA member co-operative, was involved, for a time, in a joint-venture fruit packing operation in China as a result of CCA development activities there.

Not all of the benefits realized by Canadian organizations through their involvement with CCA are strictly financial. For

many of the Canadians who volunteer their time to work overseas, the experience is a life-changing event, both professionally and personally.

John Wipf is an actuarial student with The Co-operators Group Ltd., a large Canadian insurance co-operative. He has made three visits to the Philippines, totalling nearly 12 months, to assist an emerging co-operative insurance company there. "I think I am much more effective in my own job because of that experience," he said. "It matured me in many ways. Because of that experience I have much deeper insights into my own profession than I had before."

For Wipf, working with CCA helped him realize some of his own potential. In many respects, realizing potential is what the Canadian Co-operative Association's work is all about.

Mkalipi of South Africa describes it this way. "CCA identified in us a sleeping giant. They have done a great deal of work to make that sleeping giant awake. I am convinced that before the end of this century we will have credit unions in South Africa to rival those in North America."

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\* John Julian is Director of Institutional Relations, CCA

# NCBA Releases New Video: "The ABCs of Cooperative Childcare" (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.3)

NCBA Releases New Video  
"The ABCs of Co-operative Child Care"  
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The National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) has released the second in its developing series of "how to" videos. The first "How to Run a Co-op Food Buying Club", released in 1993, has proven to be a practical and popular resource. Produced in conjunction with the University of California Center for Co-operatives, the new video contains valuable information that will help families start and run their own co-operative child care centers.

With more than half of the women with children under age one in the workforce, the need for child care has become an issue for them and their employers. Increasingly, parents and employers are turning to professionally managed child care co-operatives as the best way to meet the need for child care. The video explains how co-operative child care centers - member owned and run enterprises - provide high quality, affordable child care for their member families. In producing the video, NCBA looked for examples of co-operatives from across the United States and Canada.

The 21-minute video is available in VHS format in both English and Spanish for the price of US \$19.95 each. "The ABCs of Cooperative Child Care" and "How to Run a Co-op Food Buying Club" are also available as a package for US \$35.00. For further information, contact Jill Stevenson, NCBA, Washington D.C. E-mail: [jstevenson@ncba.org](mailto:jstevenson@ncba.org)

## News from the Regions (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.4-5)

News from the Regions  
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Asia-Pacific  
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### Top Women Farm Leaders Meet

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The Asian Regional Conference of Top Level Women Farm Leaders was jointly organised by the ICA ROAP, the Japanese Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-ZENCHU), the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA), and the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) in Tokyo from 20 to 26 October 1996. Over 100 participants, from 25 countries, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam and five international organisations (FAO, ILO, AARRO, IFAP and ICA) attended the Conference. The participants included 44 observers of JA prefectural women's associations in Japan.

The objectives of the conference were to exchange views and experiences on the role of rural women in agricultural co-operatives and on measures taken to raise the living standards of rural women engaged in the agricultural sector through income generating activities and better working conditions.

### Asian Medical Co-ops Meet

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The second meeting of Medical Co-operatives from the Asia-Pacific region was held at Mumbai (Bombay), India from 2-3 November, 1996. Twenty-eight delegates from India, Japan, Nepal, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka participated at the meeting which was chaired by Dr. S. Kato, chairperson of the International Health Co-operative Organisation. The main item of discussion was the formation of an Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation (APHCO) and its relationship with the IHCO. The forum appointed a working committee consisting of Dr. Ogino from Japan, Dr. Vijay Deshmukh from India and Lionel Samarasinghe from Sri Lanka to draft the constitution for the organisation. The committee subsequently met on 26 December to draft the constitution, which will be discussed at the next meeting in March 1997. The general meeting of the committee will be held in the latter part of 1997.

During the proceedings of the meeting, there were several proposals for the bilateral exchange of medical practitioners as well as a technical co-operation programme among developed and developing countries in the region.

ICA Organises Youth Seminar

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ICA ROAP held a regional seminar on Youth Co-operatives in Singapore from 21-23 November 1996, in collaboration with the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA), Japan and the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF).

The seminar brought together 250 delegates from Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, Sri Lanka, Republic of Korea, Philippines and Singapore. The seminar discussed youth issues in the Asia-Pacific region and the potential of co-operatives to integrate youth into the main stream of development as well as setting up of youth co-operatives in the region. Co-operative identity and leadership formed the major part of the discussions. Dr. Aline Wong, Senior Minister of State for Education in Singapore was expected to inaugurate the seminar.

#### Agri-business Symposium

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ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific held a symposium on the Impact of Globalization on the Competitive Strength of Agri-business Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific from 30 November to 1 December 1996 at Yangon, Myanmar. About 30 delegates participated in the symposium.

#### Seminar on Agro-processing

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A Regional seminar on agro-processing was organised by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) in Dalian city (China) from 11-22 November 1996. Sixteen delegates from seven countries participated in the seminar.

#### The Americas

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#### Regional Meetings

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From November 18-23 San Jose, Costa Rica, was the centre of a major series of events organised by the ICA's Regional Office for the Americas, which brought together more than 600 co-operative leaders from across the continent.

The first Continental Women's Meeting ever held in the Americas, following several years of national and regional workshops, resulted in the adoption of a Platform of Action on Gender Issues, much of which was subsequently incorporated into the Regional Office's Strategic Plan for the period 1996-2000. This meeting was followed by a three-day Regional Conference on the theme of "De-globalisation", featuring a variety of high-level presentations on the economic challenges facing co-operatives in the Americas, as well as strategies for the future.

The Regional Assembly for the Americas, held on 23 November under the chairmanship of Roberto Rodrigues, President of ICA-Americas, formally approved the Regional Office's new Strategic Plan, as well as a revised set of Rules for the Regional Assembly.

The Assembly will henceforth be composed of representatives of the Specialised Organisations in the region, in addition to representatives of ICA member organisations.

Members also approved the creation of a new position of Alternate President for the Americas, to which Miguel Cardozo of Uruguay was elected.

The 1997 Regional Conference, to be held in Mexico, will feature the themes of youth in co-operatives and the role of



co-operatives in providing employment. The 1998 Regional Assembly will be held in Uruguay.

## Europe

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### Regional Assembly

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The Second ICA Regional Assembly for Europe was held in Budapest, Hungary, on 30 October 1996 under the chairmanship of Lars Hillbom, ICA Vice-President. The meeting was attended by 180 representatives and observers.

The Assembly was preceded by an International Seminar organized jointly with IRU on financial co-operatives, which had a large participation from Central and Eastern European co-operative movements, and by several specialised organisations' meetings.

Laszlo Lakos, Minister of Agriculture, himself a co-operative member, welcomed participants on behalf of the Hungarian Government and the message of the Prime Minister was read out. The head of the NGO section of the Council of Europe, Geza Mezei attended the Assembly as a special guest.

In his address, Graham Melmoth, President of ICA, referred to activities going on in other regions as well as at global ICA level.

The Regional Assembly adopted the activity report on 1996 and the work plan for 1997, welcomed two new members to the Region, the co-operative apex organisations from Malta and Bosnia-Herzegovina, discussed and approved a report prepared by the Working Group on Assistance to Central and Eastern Europe.

After the procedural matters, the afternoon session was devoted to the topic of "Corporate Governance and Management Control Systems in European Co-operatives" based on the background paper drafted by Reimer Volkers and Moira Lees. Six speakers - I. Barberini (Italy), P. Bartus (Hungary), R. Itkonen (Finland), A. Nicolaisen (Denmark), E. Pflimlin (France) and S. Sivertsen (Norway)- touched upon various aspects of the main theme, such as internal and external controls, gender aspects, management control experiences of a country in transition, auditors' responsibilities related to reports to members, and technical and democratic controls in co-operative banks.

The discussion was facilitated by Lloyd Wilkinson, CEO of the Co-operative Union, UK. A final statement was distributed and adopted by the Assembly serving as guidelines for co-operative movements in their follow-up work on Governance issues.

The Assembly confirmed the nomination of Lars Hillbom to the post of ICA Vice-President and accepted the invitation of the French co-operative movement (GNC) to hold the next Regional Assembly for Europe in France in autumn 1998.

# Highlights of the ICA Board Meeting (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.8)

## Highlights of the ICA Board Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

During its meeting in Budapest the Board approved a record number of membership applications. Of the 17 new ICA member organisations, 14 are from the Americas region. Other new members are from Palestine, Malta, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Board also officially approved the establishment of the ICA Development Trust as the formal body that will implement the ICA's development programme in the future. The members of the ICA Board will constitute the Board of the Development Trust, and its management will be carried out by the staff of the ICA Development Section. At its next meeting the Board will consider the establishment of a global advisory body for the Trust.

The Board accepted a management recommendation that the ICA Regional Office for West Africa be relocated from Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, to Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. As previously discussed with the Regional Council, this will result in significant financial savings.

The Board continued its examination of how to improve the representation of women within co-operative organisations. It was agreed that the ICA President would write to all member organisations in order to encourage them to give high priority to this issue, and also ask them to inform ICA of their policies and targets.

After achieving a surplus of over 225,000 Swiss francs in 1995, largely due to the success of the Manchester Congress, ICA is projecting only a small surplus for both 1996 and 1997. The Board approved these financial reports and requested management to continue its discussions with representatives of those sectors in which changes to the subscription formula or process are desirable. The 1997 General Assembly, now scheduled to be held in Geneva on 15 and 16 September, will feature elections to the Board and the Audit and Control Committee. Member organisations will be requested to submit nominations, as per the Rules, three months prior to the meeting.

The Special Committee on Rules and Finance was asked to examine the possibility of establishing a Nominations Committee in order to improve the representation of regions, sectors, and women on the ICA Governing Bodies.

The next ICA Board meeting will be held on April 18-19, in Uganda, at the invitation of the ICA Vice-President for Africa, Bernard Wolimbwa. The Board also accepted an invitation from the ICA's Canadian member organisations to hold the 1999 General

Assembly in Quebec, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Desjardins caisse populaire movement.

(A two page centre-spread of photos taken during the Regional Assembly appears on pages 6 & 7 of the ICA News - not included)

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# Pioneers on the Tourist Map -- in Six Languages (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.8)

Pioneers on the Tourist Map - in Six Languages  
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Guide books have been introduced in six languages at the Rochdale Pioneers Museum, birthplace of the Co-operative Movement, to meet the demand from international visitors.

The famous landmark in Toad Lane, Rochdale, is visited by up to 10,000 people every year - including many from overseas.

Thanks to a financial contribution from the European Union, which allocated funds following the 150th anniversary of the Rochdale Pioneers in 1994, the Museum's principal guide book has now been produced in French, German, Italian, Spanish and Japanese, as well as English.

"The Rochdale Pioneers were the inspiration for the Co-operative idea spreading around the world, and we receive hundreds of international visitors at Toad Lane - including large groups from Japan", commented Iain Williamson, Museum Curator. "This new brochure tells the remarkable story of the early Pioneers as well as explaining the many objects on display in the Museum today."

The translations were carried out by Total Coverage Ltd., a workers' co-operative based in Southampton, and the full-colour brochures have been printed by the Co-operative Press in Manchester. The brochures are available at P.Stg.1.50 each plus postage from the Co-operative Union Ltd., Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS. For further information contact Iain Williamson, tel.+44-161-832-4300, E-mail: info@co-opu.demon.co.uk

# World Overview (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.9-10)

World Overview  
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Canada  
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1997 International Credit Union Forum  
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Vancouver, Canada is the venue of the World Council of Credit Unions' 1997 International Credit Union Forum. Diverse Voices in Concert is the theme of the 1997 Forum, which capitalizes on the unique flavour of the international credit union movement by bringing together people of distinct culture, beliefs and personalities. Diversity brings richness and synergy to every organization and the 1997 Forum promises to deliver both in dialogues, educational sessions, networking and comraderie. The forum will be organised from 29 June to 3 July 1997.

Further information and registration form can be requested from World Council of Credit Unions, P O Box 2982, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2982, USA (Fax 1-608 2388020).

Israel  
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Conference of Social Welfare  
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The 28th ICSW International Conference of Social Welfare will take place in Jerusalem, Israel, 5-9 July 1998. The theme of the conference is "Promoting Human Well-Being: Addressing the Forces Shaping Society". For any further information, please contact the Chairperson of the Organising Committee, Dr. Yitzhak Brick, Tel Aviv, fax: 972 -3 517674.

Japan  
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Rochdale Club  
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It was in 1844 that the first co-operative was formed in the town of Rochdale, England. It all started with a tiny rented grocery shop in an old warehouse with only 28 people distributing only five staple items. The Rochdale spirit of co-operatives "to support our life by serving ourselves" is still very much alive among co-operative followers throughout the world. Osaka Izumi Co-op opened the "Rochdale Club" in July 1987 with a view to inheriting the Rochdale spirit and developing new contacts and cultural activities. After eight years, the number of people who have used the club has reached over 300,000. The Club is the center of attention not only from members and employees but also

business traders, scholars and VIPs in various sectors as a new communication space for meetings, talks, relaxation, improvement and recreation. It provides musical entertainment on a regular basis.

#### New Insurance System for Quake Victims

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Taking a lesson from the January, 1995 earthquake which hit the Kansai region of Japan and in particular the city of Kobe, the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU) and the National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Co-operatives (ZENROSAI ), in association with the government of the Hyogo Prefecture and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, have agreed on a joint plan to establish 'disaster insurance contingency scheme' against future risks. They have also agreed to request the government to use the scheme to provide relief for the victims of the last earthquake (Hanshin).

The agreement provides for the establishment of a national insurance scheme for house reconstruction in case of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods or volcanic eruptions, covering losses and damages to houses and household articles.

The four organisations launched a campaign and collected millions of signatures from citizens supporting the scheme, which will be submitted to the government. The JCCU alone will be collecting fifteen million signatures in co-operation with its members.

-Co-op Japan Information, Vol. 26, September, 1996.

#### Children Reporters at JA Fukumitsu - Chuo

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To make children know more about JA, a gathering of children reporters was organised by JA Fukumitsu-Chuo. This even was sponsored by JA's information Journal "First" and twelve elementary and junior high school children participated with the recommendation of the Fukumitsu City School. Mr. Maeda, the councillor from JA gave an address taking "Chagurin" the children's magazine published by Ie no Kikari group as a reference and explained about JA's activities and future agriculture.

-(JA-Zenchu News, No. 8, 1996)

#### Singapore

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#### Good Results for FairPrice

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NTUC FairPrice, the supermarket co-op, reported a group turnover of \$647.35 million for the year ending 31 March 1996. This represents a 7.7% jump over the previous year. The co-op's group net profits also jumped over 25% to \$50.38 million. With its good performance, FairPrice will be paying out \$31.4 million to its shareholders through a 6% dividend and an 8% patronage rebate. The co-op's membership now exceeds 320,000 and, over the next 12 months, another 6 outlets will be opened to add to its current 53 stores in Singapore.

-(SNCF Co-operator, vol. 21, no. 2)

#### United Kingdom

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#### Co-operative Bank Introduces Teleworking

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The Co-operative Bank, UK has introduced a pilot scheme with a number of staff from the Collections Department, who will be working from home, on the basis of the teleworking agreement

which the bank signed with the banking union BIFU. Based on the practice already in place in many industries, the agreement ensures that the bank staff working from home will have appropriate terms and conditions for their circumstances. For teleworkers, the benefits include increased flexibility, reduced travelling time and expenses, more free time and often the ability to integrate home and work life more effectively. Teleworking can help the Bank reduce recruiting and retaining costs, apart from providing additional working options for the staff.

#### Co-op Bank Introduces Schools Affinity Cards

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In a most ambitious affinity scheme introduced by the Co-operative Bank in October, 1996, the parents and their family and friends will be given the chance to do some fund raising to contribute towards their children's education, through their spending. For every card opened in the schools name, P.Stg.5 will be donated to the school and a further 25p. for every PStg.100 spent on the card. The head teachers of the school will be involved in the scheme and it is their responsibility to sign up as many parents as possible. To coincide with the launch of the Schools Card, a national competition will be launched in collaboration with the Guardian newspaper, aimed at schools to find the Young Ethical Entrepreneurs of the Year. The competition winners will be invited to discover the challenges of handling an ethical business by running the Co-operative Bank for a day, besides willing PStg.500 for each age category for their schools. The competition is aimed at 14-16 and 16-18 age groups.

-(Banknotes, October 1996)

#### Co-op News on Cyberspace

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The Co-operative News has taken its place on the information superhighway by launching its own web site on the Internet. The site contains an outline of the newspaper's history and ideals, useful contact numbers and subscription details. The web site is located on the CWS UK Co-op pages and the address is <http://www.co-op.co.uk/UKCM/coopnews/coopnews.html/>

-(Co-operative News, November 12, 1996)

USA  
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#### Race Raises \$27,000 for Co-op Development

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The Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF) organized its 8th annual Race for Co-operative Development on 6 October 1996, which drew nearly 300 runners. The race raised a record breaking \$27,000 to support the Co-operative Development Foundation's work for promoting community, economic and social development through co-ops founded on self-help and mutual aid.

-(CDF News Release)

## United Nations (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.11)

United Nations  
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### World Habitat Awards: Call for Entries 1997

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The World Habitat Awards were initiated in 1985 as part of the Building and Social Housing Foundation's (B&SHF) contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987. The principle objective of the international year was for every nation to draw up strategies, policies and programmes that would enable practical and attainable improvements to be made in the shelter and neighbourhoods of all poor and disadvantaged people by the year 2000.

Entries are currently being sought for the 1997 World Habitat Award. This year is the thirteenth year of this annual competition, which has been highly successful in attracting outstanding human settlements projects. The winning projects have received world-wide publicity, with a view to encouraging their replication in many other countries.

Projects are sought, in both developed and developing countries, which offer sustainable futures to residents and which provide practical and imaginative solutions to current housing problems.

A panel of international assessors evaluate the projects. The two award winners each year receive PStg.10,000 plus an individually designed and crafted silver trophy. The awards are presented each year on World Habitat Day and in 1996 were presented by Mr.Gabor Kuncze, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Hungary in Budapest, Hungary.

The B&SHF is now calling for entries for 1997. Preliminary submissions should be sent before 31 July 1997.

For further information, please contact Diane Deacon, Deputy Director B&SHF, UK by fax: 44-1530 510 332, or E-mail: 100567.3433@compuserve.com

### The UNEP SASAKAWA Prize

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Sasakawa Prize is one of the most prestigious environmental awards in the world.

The Prize, administered by UNEP, was initially named the Sasakawa International Environment Prize. It is now known as the UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize and is awarded annually to leading environmentalists and recognizes the work of these individuals at the global level. Since its inception, interest in the award



has increased significantly as attested by the growing number of nominations. The prize aims to encourage environmental achievement in any field of the environment. The annual award of \$50,000 was increased to \$200,000 in 1990, making it one of the most valuable environmental prizes. The prize is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the management and protection of the environment consistent with the policies, aims and objectives of UNEP.

Candidates can be associated with any field of the environment. Those eligible to make nominations include, but are not limited to, specialists in environmental sciences, academies of science, engineering and research, members of the United Nations system, governments and intergovernmental organizations, trade unions and non-governmental organizations. The deadline for nominations for the Prize is 31 March 1997. Additional information may be obtained from the Secretary, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya, Fax: (254 2) 62 3692.

#### IYEP

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In 1993, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (IYEP), "recognizing that poverty is a complex and multi-dimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains, and that its eradication in all countries, in particular in developing countries, has become one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s in order to promote sustainable development". Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty posed a challenge to the international community to do more to stem the rising tide of world poverty. The global observance of this Day is aimed at promoting public awareness of the causes of poverty and the need to eradicate such destitution.

## Co-op People (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.12)

Co-op People  
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Martin Bergner, former head of the International Department of VdK, has been promoted to Executive Vice President. VdK is one of the two Consumer Co-operative Unions in Germany, mainly active in the Eastern part.

CCA Executive Director Lynden Hillier has been seconded to the Government of Canada to become Executive Director of the Co-operatives Secretariat, effective 2 December 1996. The secondment will be for a period of two years under Interchange Canada, an executive exchange programme between the Federal Government and the private sector. Mr. Hillier has been CCA's Executive Director for the past 8 1/2 years. It was announced that the CCA Board of Directors would fill the Executive Director position through a contract for management services with the Credit Union Central of Canada (CUCC).

M. C. Merril Perera from the Keopungoda St. Anthony's Fisheries Co-operative Society Ltd, has been elected as the President of the Sri Lanka National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Societies for a period of two years from August 1996.

Raymond Stelandre, Secretary-General of BITS, has taken over the responsibility for the Secretariat of Tourism International Co-operative and Associated (TICA) on the retirement of Connie Beswick from the CWS on 1 November 1996.

On 23 April 1997, four co-op leaders will receive the US co-operative sector's highest honour - induction into the Co-operative Hall of Fame. The inductees "Paddy" Bailey, Stanley W. Dreyer, W. Malcolm Harding and Woodrow Keown will join 90 other co-op leaders in the prestigious Co-operative Hall of Fame.

Obituaries  
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Paul Derrick died in December 1996 at the age of 80. He was a long-serving employee of ICA until his retirement. The funeral was held on 9 December at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in London.

Eva Feher, Hungary, died on 12 November 1996 at the age of 71. She worked for the National Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives and held different positions in the ICA organs between 1968-76. She represented the National Co-operative Council in the ICA Central Committee, in the Women Co-operators' Advisory Council/Women's Committee and was a member of the Agricultural Committee.

Dr. Arturo Vainstok died on 4 January 1997 at the age of 86. In

addition to his many important contributions to the co-operative movement of Argentina, Dr. Vainstock will be remembered by countless co-operative leaders around the world for his unwavering belief in the values of the co-operative movement and in the necessity for practical international co-operation.

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# ICA Calendar (1996)

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December, 1996

(Source: ICA News, Issue No.6, 1996, pp.12)

ICA Calendar  
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27 February 1997  
Board Committee on Rules & Finance  
Geneva, Switzerland

21 March 1997  
ICA European Council  
Rome, Italy

19 - 22 March 1997  
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference  
Chiangmai, Thailand

7 - 8 April 1997  
Meeting of Specialised Bodies  
Geneva, Switzerland

9 April 1997  
ICBA Board Meeting  
Geneva, Switzerland

18 - 21 April 1997  
ICA Board Meeting  
Kampala, Uganda

End April 1997  
ICACC Executive  
Copenhagen, Denmark

15 - 16 September 1997  
ICA General Assembly  
Geneva, Switzerland

Official Swiss ICA Holidays in 1997  
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In 1997, the ICA Head Office will be closed on the following  
days:

1 January - New Year's Day  
28 March - Good Friday  
31 March - Easter Monday  
1 May - Labour Day  
8 May - Ascension Day  
19 May - Pentecostal Monday  
1 August - Swiss National Day  
25 December - Christmas