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ICA Press Releases

Iain Macdonald Appointed as ICA Director-General



Geneva, Switzerland, 20 June 2002, for immediate release -- Mr. Iain Macdonald, a UK national, has been selected as the new Director-General of the International Co-operative Alliance. His appointment was confirmed by the ICA Board at its meeting in Paris (France) on 18 June 2002.

Mr. Macdonald is currently employed as the Head of Co-operative Strategy for the Co-operative Group in Manchester, United Kingdom.

He joined the Co-operative Movement in 1979 working for the UK Co-operative Union in Scotland and moved to the Co-operative Wholesale Society in 1986. The earlier part of his career concentrated on work with co-operative members but this broadened out to encompass all parts and disciplines within the Movement. As Head of Co-operative Strategy, his main task has been to promote the co-operative agenda within the Society ensuring that the co-operative nature of the business is emphasised.

He has had extensive international experience with the UK Co-operative Movement, not least as a co-author of the 1995 report of the International Joint Project on Co-operative Democracy "Making Membership Meaningful" and has participated in a considerable number of international events. He has also been very active in the international peace movement.

Despite his obvious links with the consumer section Mr. Macdonald had worked closely with colleagues in the credit union, worker, housing and community co-operative sectors.

In addition to his co-operative experience, Mr. Macdonald comes to the ICA with an accounting and media background and French language skills. He will be taking up his post in Geneva in early September 2002.

Mr. Macdonald has indicated his keenness to raise the profile of the ICA especially reflecting the importance of co-operative enterprise in this increasingly global economy.

Last updated: 25 June 2002



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ICA Press Releases

UN Secretary-General reaffirms support to co-operative movement in his meeting with ICA President

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 April 2002, for immediate release -- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan underlined his continued support to the co-operative movement during his meeting with the ICA President, Ivano Barberini on 23 April 2002 at the UN headquarters in New York. "Co-operatives have been able to help millions of people of around the world improve their lives. They are an effective organising mechanism," said Mr. Annan.



The meeting accorded by the Secretary-General to ICA officials during these politically turbulent times was a clear message to co-operators that the United Nations recognised the co-operative movement as an important segment of organised civil society able to have real impact on the major issues faced by societies worldwide.

"ICA is seeking to open a new chapter of collaboration with the United Nations," said Mr. Barberini. ICA and the UN have common goals and values. They seek to promote sustainable economic and social development, and thereby peace. In this regard Mr. Barberini congratulated Mr. Annan personally as well as the United Nations for the rightful recognition of their role in promoting peace with the receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Barberini further thanked the Secretary-General for the UN's support to co-operatives with his annual messages for the UN International Day of Co-operatives, the bi-annual Secretary-General's report, and the recently adopted UN Guidelines on Co-operatives. These were key documents that brought a higher visibility to co-operatives and a clear message from the United Nations on the importance of co-operatives around the world. The ICA President then extended an invitation to the Secretary-General to address ICA's General Assembly to be held in the autumn of 2003 in Oslo. "By participating in this meeting, the United Nations would be able to address the hundreds of millions of co-operators through the leaders of the co-operative world," said Mr. Barberini. The theme of the meeting would address economic and social development of co-operatives.

Mr. Annan reaffirmed his continued support to co-operatives saying that ICA can "count on me and the United Nations". The United Nations encouraged partnership and ICA was a good partner. He welcomed the invitation to participate in ICA's General Assembly and hoped to be able to participate. He concluded by asking the President to convey his best wishes to co-operators around the world.

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental association which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. The ICA was founded in London in 1895. Its members are national and international co-operative organisations in all sectors of activity including agriculture, banking, energy, industry, insurance, fisheries, housing, tourism and consumer co-operatives. ICA has more than 200 member organisations from over 100 countries, representing more than 760 million individuals worldwide.

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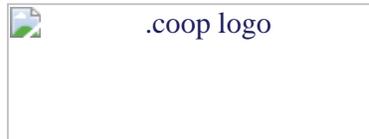


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ICA Press Releases

Global Launch



... a powerful tool to achieve our aims ...

Geneva, 30 January, for immediate release--On 30 January 2002 (1700 GMT) the new top level internet domain name restricted only to co-operatives will launch its operations and enable co-operatives around the world to register a .coop domain name.

The co-operative movement recognises the importance of the Internet as a means of communicating with each other and conducting business. ".Coop will enable us to make co-operatives more visible and better understood and promote the Co-operative Identity worldwide" noted ICA President, Ivano Barberini. For ICA, .coop will assist in fulfilling its aims of promoting co-operative values and principles, facilitating the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organisations and more generally further the economic and social progress of its members and their communities. The Digital Divide Fund which will be created by .coop and jointly managed with the ICA will enable co-operatives to take advantage of the Internet to help them serve their members more effectively. ".coop is a powerful tool to achieve our aims!"

United Nations Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai, a key ICA partner in promoting co-operatives around the world said, "The United Nations recognises the significant role of co-operatives as associations and enterprises through which citizens can effectively improve their lives while contributing to the economic, social, cultural and political advancement of their community and nation, and welcomes the creation of a Digital Divide Fund to assist co-operatives in their technological development." He added that the new United Nations Guidelines will encourage the creation of a supportive environment which can lead to a better understanding of co-operatives, promote their identity and strengthen the international co-operative movement, including support for new and innovative initiatives such as the new Internet domain name ".coop. Desai ended saying, "I would like to congratulate and commend the International Co-operative Alliance and the co-operative movement for undertaking this bold and far-sighted initiative."

ICA members in all regions of the world had the opportunity to reserve names during the pre-registration phase of .coop. These have chosen .coop as a way to communicate their co-operative difference and improve their business aims. Here are the comments of a few of those early registrants.

Coop Norway and .coop, joined together in harmony! We just had to do it! We will carry our coop domain with pride. It represents the essence of our work - in one word." Coop Norway (Norway)

.coop will identify very publicly the benefit of Co-operation. Co-operative enterprises are value-led organisations which increasingly are being sought out by consumers of services. .coop will allow new consumers to find co-operatives with ease on the world wide web." Co-operative Union (UK)

NATCCO - Philippines welcomes the launching of the new .coop domain with co-op pride and joy. We in NATCCO believe that this new domain name will highlight the distinct nature and advantage of co-operatives in the Internet - which grows daily in its importance for co-op business and relations.
National Confederation of Co-operatives (Philippines)

Confcooperative is deeply convinced that this suffix is the unique appropriate to co-operatives since it reflects their specific business structure which need to be differentiated from other forms of businesses, especially in the field of the electronic commerce. Confederazione Cooperative Italiane (Italy)

Pellervo has paid during the last years very much attention to developing our presence in the web. We think that this helps our member companies in building the co-operative character of their business into real competitive edge. The recent launch of .coop domain and Pellervo joining among the first in it is part of this general co-operative strategy. Pellervo (Finland)

.coop is a good way to advertise co-operative ideals and the activities of co-operative organisations in our increasingly globalised world. Co-operative Association of the Czech Republic

The co-operative and mutual insurance sector forms a key part of the world financial services industry. With demutualisation taking place in some countries, it is important to reinforce the co-operative movement's role and position in different ways. The .coop domain will be an effective tool to proclaim the co-operative identity. International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF)

ICA reiterates its call on all co-operatives to register domain names under .coop to promote their co-operative identity and take advantage of the opportunities that .coop will provide to co-operatives to improve their business efficiency, to have access to products developed specifically for the co-operative market, and to support the creation of a Digital Divide Fund to assist co-operatives in their technological growth.

The Global launch of .coop, the new domain name for co-operatives, takes place on 30 January 2002. Pre-registration for ICA members ends at 08:00 GMT on 30 January. Registration commences at 17:00 GMT on 30 January. To register go to www.coop

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