



ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

"Co-operation and Peace in the Era of Globalisation"

15 - 17 October, Seoul - Korea

Report of the ICA President: Roberto Rodrigues

As President of ICA I will speak very briefly because you have already received a written summary of my activities in the last two years, since Québec.

During these two years I have been participating in approximately 234 international events as well 137 national events in my country Brazil. During this two year period, I have embarked on 58 working visits to 38 countries in all the continents. Amongst these meetings, I took part in a meeting about sustainable agriculture, promoted by the United Nations Committee for Sustainable Agriculture entitled "The Best Usage of National Resources to Ensure the Food Production Cycle". It was held in New York in April 2000, it was important to make the co-operative movement participate in that meeting.

What is very important to say to you also is that I have been working since Québec, you will remember that in Québec has been approved a document named "Vision statement for 2005" and the actual plan for ICA and after that we have been implementing that Action Plan and the ICA Board confirmed the new administrative structure proposed by the new Director General, according to the four focus areas as decided before: Co-operative Identity; International Co-operative Presence; Development and Networking with Communications as an important cross-cutting issue. During the year 2000/2001, the implementation was underway and it is expected that the new Presidency and Board Members will continue the task.

Another very much important thing has been the discussions in Geneva last June on the Review of the ILO Recommendation 127 and this is the object of some comments that we will take up later on in this Assembly.

About membership, there are some interesting figures. At the beginning of the mandate of this Board, which finishes today, ICA had 224 members associates, today we have 253 members representing a 13% increase. There also have been changes in a social board. Until 1997, ICA was operated very centrally, specialised organisations were like satellites revolving around the ICA, and today their institutional cooperation with clearly all the specialised organisations. Another issue has been the creation of the Rochdale Pioneer Prize that has been won this year by Dr. Kurien from India.

Now, let me finish this short report with some comments about the ICA financial situation. The draft final accounts for 2000 well presented showing a loss of almost 1.2 million Swiss francs, which has wiped out literally all of ICA's reserves. The losses come from the payment to Mr. Bruce Thordarson and Ms. Mary Treacy totalling 485.000 Swiss francs; deficits in the Regional Office of the Americas about 392.905 Swiss francs; deficits in the Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific of 144.000 Swiss francs; Regional Office of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa of 29.000 Swiss Francs and the Regional Office for West Africa of 61.000 Swiss francs. The Secretariat has worked hard to re-plan and re-budget. Close monitoring and control has been exercised. At the Finance Committee meeting in September the projected result for the year 2001 indicated a small surplus that means the blood letting seems to be stopped. A more detailed report will be presented by the Director-General, Karl-Johan Fogelström in his report now.