



ICA GA BRIEFING *August 2005*

The first three days of the GA Week are taken up with a variety of different sectoral, thematic and other meetings. They include the two-day **Youth Conference** where the global youth network is beginning to make a real impact. It will be free to all young people under 35. The **CICOPA World Conference** takes place on Monday, 19 Sept which highlights the work of artisan co-ops; worker co-op startups; co-operative contributions to local development and health services as worker co-operatives. The **Consumer Co-operatives International** will hold a workshop on *Successful Consumer Co-operatives Competing on Our Co-operatives Values* on 20 Sept with case studies showing consumer co-operatives with clear marketing positions projecting the benefits of co-operative values.

Wednesday, 21 September

There will be a series of extremely interesting and wide-ranging seminars open to GA registrants.

08:00-18:00 The **ICA Americas** region will hold a seminar with the fascinating title *Free trade -- a challenge for co-operatives and their integration in the Americas (E/S)**. This has a clear South American remit but will have valuable insights for all cooperators.

09:00-12:00 The **ICA Gender Equality Committee** is convening a meeting on *Microfinance & Co-operatives (E/S)* especially relevant given that this is the UN Year of Microcredit and this was also the theme of the International Day of Co-operatives. The seminar will highlight the experiences of co-operatives in providing Micro Finance, especially focusing on women.

09:00-12:30 The **Human Resource Development Committee** is hosting a special interest session on *The Co-operative Learning Centre- CLC: A Portal to Co-operative Education and Training (E/S)*. At this session the team from the British Columbia Institute of Co-operative Studies, together with others from the HRD Committee and the ILO, will present an introduction to the CLC followed by a discussion of its role in today's cooperative movement.

14:00-16:00 **The Global 300** briefing session will present a very exciting project, that of compiling a list of the largest 300 co-operatives and mutual businesses in the world. Preliminary estimates suggest that the largest 300 co-operatives and mutual organizations have a very real and significant global presence. This is rarely reported and is virtually invisible to the mainstream media, governments and the wider community. The business press would appear to believe that co-operatives have no real role in a globalised and competitive economy. We know they do but we have to prove it! This is what the session is all about.

14:00-18:00 **Consumer Co-operatives International** is involved with the **International Agricultural Co-operative Organisation** and the **International Federation of Agricultural Producers** in their joint seminar on *Co-operative Integration in Agricultural Marketing (E/S)*. This will discuss missions and successful strategies in building effective linkages between producer and consumer co-operatives. Speakers will be participating from all corners of the globe.

* Simultaneous interpretation provided in English/Spanish

Thursday, 22 September

09:00-12:00 The General Assembly (E/S/F/R¹)

This year the opening ceremony will be a grand affair featuring the Mayor of Cartagena, **Alberto Rafael Eduardo BARBOSA**; the Vice President of ICA Americas, **Carlos PALACINO**; and the President of ICA, **Ivano BARBERINI**. Our special guest will be **José Antonio OCAMPO**, the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations. A Colombian himself, Mr. Ocampo was previously the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He had previously held a number of posts in the government of Colombia and he obtained his Doctorate in Economics from Yale University. It is clear he is eminently suited to talk to us on the theme of this Assembly.

After setting the scene, the opening ceremony will be followed by four keynote presentations:

- **Johnston BIRCHALL** from Stirling University in Scotland is a well-known co-operative academic who will present a specially commissioned paper, circulated with the GA Review: *Co-operative Principles Ten Years On*.
- **Alban D'AMOURS**, president of the Desjardins group of Quebec, will talk to: *Co-operatives: Competitive Business Models*. He will highlight how co-operative values and principles are increasingly important in competition with other commercial businesses and how this has contributed to the success of the Desjardins group.
- **Sherron WATKINS** became very well-known to the world as the Enron whistleblower. As a former Vice President of Corporate Development at Enron, she exposed the huge ethical problems of that organisation and is therefore very well placed to judge how co-operative enterprise should use its natural advantages in this area. She will talk to: *Social Responsibility and Values Driving Mainstream Business Success*.
- **José Manuel SALAZAR-XIRINACHS** has recently been appointed as ILO Executive Director and will present: *Co-operatives Making Fair Globalisation a Reality*. He will speak from the perspective of the unique contribution co-operatives can make to fair globalisation, strengthening economic capability and corporate social responsibility through the application of values and principles.

14:00-18:00 Business Fora

All of this leads naturally to the more practical and participative sessions which are the Business Fora. Each subject has been carefully chosen to fit into our main conference theme and build on what has been presented by our keynote speakers. Organised as parallel sessions, participants can take part in two of the four choices as follows:

■ **Best Practice of Successful Co-operative Business (E/S/R)**

Chairperson: **Kian Peng Seah**, Chair, Singapore National Co-operative Federation

Secretary: **Shil Kwan Lee**, Regional Director, ICA Asia-Pacific

Coordinator: **Garry Cronan**, ICA Communications Manager

Presentations:

- **Carlos Palacino**, Executive President, Saludcoop, Colombia. Saludcoop is a healthcare co-operative which is the second largest employer in Colombia
- **Kari Neilimo**, President and CEO, S Group, Finland. This group of co-operatives has a turnover of approximately USD 9 billion
- **Trent Bartlett**, CEO, Capricorn Society Ltd, Australia. Capricorn is the largest independent automotive parts buying co-operative in the southern hemisphere with an annual turnover of \$535 million

¹ Simultaneous interpretation provided in English/Spanish/French/Russian

■ A Level Playing Field for Co-operatives in Competition (E/S/F)

Chairperson: **Elba Echevarria**, ICA Board Member, Puerto Rico

Secretary: **Manuel Mariño**, Regional Director, ICA Americas

Coordinator: **Maria Elena Chavez-Hertig**, ICA Deputy Director-General

Presentations:

- **Hervé Guider**, General Secretary, European Association of Co-operative Banks, will talk about European co-operatives challenging International Accounting Standards.
- **Hagen Henry**, Convener, ICA Legislative Advisory Group, will look at trends in co-operative legislation with particular reference to taxation, competition law and mergers.
- **Fabienne Derrien**, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, will talk about agricultural cooperatives and WTO negotiations

■ Global Solidarity: Co-operating out of Poverty (E/S/R)

Chairperson: **Esther Gicheru**, ICA Board Member, Kenya

Secretary: **Ada Kibora**, Regional Director, ICA Africa

Coordinator: **Jan-Eirik Imbsen**, ICA Director of Development

Presentations:

- **P.A. Kiriwandeniya**, Chair, SANASA Development Bank, Sri Lanka. He will talk about his organisation's role in reacting to the tsunami disaster.
- **H.M.Hanafia**, Chair, DEKOPINWIL, Indonesia, will talk about the post-tsunami reconstruction in Aceh.
- **Robby Tulus**, ICA Field Coordinator on Tsunami
- **Dave Sitaram**, President, Canadian Co-operative Association. He will give insight into his organisation's poverty reduction strategy
- **Ramon Imperial**, President, Caja Popular Mexicana, Mexico will talk about poverty reduction in an Americas context

■ Co-operative Innovation: A Sectoral Perspective (E/S/F)

Chairperson: **Jean-Claude Dettileux**, ICA Board Member, France

Secretary: **Rainer Schlüter**, Regional Director, ICA Europe

Coordinator: **Jin-Kook Kim**, ICA Sectoral Information Manager

Presentations:

- **Luis Fernando Añaez Pereyra**, General Manager, CRE Cooperativa Electrica, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.
- **Vivian Woodell**, CEO, Phone Co-op, UK
- **Martin Lowery**, Executive Vice President, National Rural Electric Co-operative Association, USA
- **Bruno Roelants**, General Secretary, CICOPA, Belgium

Each speaker will focus on the innovative characteristics of their cooperative; how co-operative values contribute to business success and the key strategic challenges they face.

Friday, 23 September

09:00-17:00 GA Statutory Business (E/S/F/R)

The statutory business of the General Assembly is of course a very important part of the week as with any co-operative gathering. This is where the President and the Director-General of the ICA report to the membership. Of course this year sees the election of a new board, audit and control committee and president. We will also have a presentation from the Governance Working Group which was asked by the Oslo Assembly to look into the responsibilities and competencies of ICA. Any motions put forward will be taken at this time and so far one has been accepted by the Board, endorsing the *World Declaration on Co-operative Worker Ownership*.

17:00-17:30 Closing

The final session of the Assembly will receive the address by **Alvaro Uribe**, President of Colombia. President Uribe is a well-known supporter of co-operative enterprise and the assembly is honoured that he has chosen to speak directly to us.

“Co-operative values: A competitive asset in a globalised economy”

Hotel Hilton, Cartagena de Indias, 22-23 September 2005

Agenda

Thursday, 22 September

09:00-12:30

Opening

- Alberto Rafael Eduardo *BARBOSA*, Mayor of Cartagena
- Carlos *PALACINO*, President of the Colombian Co-operative Confederation, ICA Vice-President for the Americas
- José Antonio *OCAMPO*, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- Ivano *BARBERINI*, ICA President

Keynote presentations

- Ten Years On: Co-operative Principles Driving Success
Johnston *BIRCHALL*, United Kingdom
- Co-operatives: Competitive Business Models
Alban *D'AMOURS*, President of Desjardins Group, Québec, Canada
- Social Responsibility and Values Driving Mainstream Business Success
Sherron *WATKINS*, Former Vice-President, Enron Corporation, USA
- Co-operatives Making Fair Globalisation a Reality
José Manuel *SALAZAR-XIRINACHS*, ILO Executive Director

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-18:00 **Business fora** (parallel sessions)

- 14:00-16:00
 - Best Practice of Successful Co-operative Business
 - A Level Playing Field for Co-operatives in Competition
- 16:00-18:00
 - Global Solidarity: Co-operating out of Poverty
 - Co-operative Innovation: A Sectoral Perspective

Friday, 23 September

09:30-12:00 General Assembly Statutory Business

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly, Oslo
- Reports to the Membership from the
 - President
 - Director-General
 - Independent Auditor
 - Audit & Control Committee
- Election of ICA President, Board members and Audit & Control Committee members: introduction of candidates and voting

12:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-17:00 General Assembly Statutory Business (cont'd)

- Election results
- Report from the Governance Working Group
- Motions and Resolutions
- Presentation of the Rochdale Pioneers Award
- Invitation to the next General Assembly
- Any other business
- Closing of the GA Statutory Business

17:00-17:30 Closing

Address of Alvaro URIBE, President of Colombia

17:30-18:00 Meeting of the newly elected Board

19:00-22:00 Farewell Dinner

ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Hotel Hilton, Cartagena de Indias, 17-23 September 2005



Schedule of events

Saturday 17 Sept	09:00-18:00	Regional Directors' meeting
Sunday 18 Sept	09:00-10:30 11:00-18:00 09:00-18:00 09:30-11:00 11:15-12:45 14:30-18:00 11:00-12:00 14:00-18:00 15:00-18:00 14:00-18:00 14:00-18:00 15:00-17:30	Global HRD Executive Committee meeting CLC planning workshop (Global HRD meeting) Youth Conference ICA Housing Executive meeting ICA Housing General meeting ICA Housing Seminar Gender Equality Executive meeting Gender Equality Plenary meeting Audit & Control Committee ICACC meeting CICOPA Executive and General Meeting Development Committee
Monday 19 Sept	09:00-12:00 09:00-18:00 09:00-18:00 09:00-18:00 09:00-13:00 09:00-12:00 12:00-14:00 15:00-18:00 14:00-18:00 19:00	CLC planning workshop (Global HRD Committee) Youth Conference CICOPA World Conference IHCO meetings Governance working group President's Committee DotCoop Board meeting (incl. lunch) ICBA Executive meeting ICA Board meeting ICA Board dinner
Tuesday 20 Sept	09:00-12:00 09:00-14:00 09:00-12:00 09:00-12:00 09:00-12:00 09:00-12:00 09:30-13:30 09:00-18:00	CCI Workshop and General Meeting ICBA Seminar ICAO meetings IHCO Europe TICA meeting ICFO meeting (incl. lunch) ICA Board meeting
Wednesday 21 Sept	09:00-12:30 09:00-12:30 08:00-18:00 14:00-16:00 14:00-18:00 15:00-19:00 19:00	■ The CLC: a new portal to co-operative knowledge and training ■ Micro-finance is OUR business ■ Free trade: a challenge for co-op enterprises and their integration in the Americas ■ Top global 300 co-operatives ■ Co-operative integration in agricultural marketing Standing Committee of Asia/Pacific Welcome Reception
Thursday 22 Sept	09:00-12:30 14:00-18:00 18:00-19:30	General Assembly Opening and Keynote Presentations “Co-operative Values: A competitive asset in a globalised economy” Business Fora .Coop Celebration - The First Four Years!
Friday 23 Sept	09:00-17:00 17:00-17:30 17:30-18:00 19:00	General Assembly Statutory Business Address of Mr. Alvaro Uribe, President of Colombia Meeting of the newly elected Board Farewell Dinner

Meetings in **blue**: on invitation only

Meetings in **red**: open to General Assembly registrants only

Meetings in **black**: open at the chair's discretion

GENERAL INFORMATION

Airport service

To ensure pick-up at the Airport in Cartagena, please send your flight details to the host organisation.

If you fly via Bogota and need assistance in the transfer please also indicate this in your mail to our hosts. When leaving Colombia you will need to pay an exit tax at the airport: USD 20 or Colombian pesos 70.000 (only cash is accepted).

Transfer will be provided from other hotels to Hilton, main conference venue every morning.

Visa

Remember that you might need a visa to enter Colombia. If so ask for an invitation letter from Saludacoop if you have not done it yet.

Registration

The ICA registration desk will be in the Hilton Cartagena, where all meetings will be held, on:

Sunday,	18 Sept.	14:00-18:00
Monday-Thursday	19-22. Sept.	8:00-18:00
Friday,	23 Sept.	8:00-12:00

Badge

When registering at the ICA desk you will receive your badge which will clearly indicate which meetings you are entitled to attend. Only GA registrants can participate at the Seminars on 21 Sept, General Assembly meetings on 22-23 Sept and social events on 21 and 23 Sept.

GA documentation

Please carry the ICA GA Review and other documentation previously received as there will be no further copies available.

Interpretation

At the General Assembly, 22 Sept. a.m. and 23 Sept all day, simultaneous translation will be provided in English, Spanish, French and Russian.

At each of the business fora three language translation will be provided (see briefing note). Seminars on 21 Sept. will be run in English and Spanish.

Social events / Dress Sense

The host organisations have arranged a welcome reception on 21 Sept and a Gala Dinner on 23 Sept for all GA registrants in the Hotel Hilton. These events will be informal. For the Gala Dinner put on your national dress.

Tourist programmes

For information on tourist trips and programme for accompanying persons please go to www.icacartagena.coop or contact the host organisation.

Electricity

110 V, 60 cycles AC throughout the country. US-type flat, two-in plugs are used.

Currency

You are advised to buy local currency at the airport on your arrival. If you want to bring cash, US dollar is the most accepted currency. The current rate is: 1 USD = 2,397 Colombian pesos.

Health instructions/Immunisation

No immunizations are required for Colombia, unless you are coming from an area infected with cholera or yellow fever. The World Health Organisation (www.who.org) recommends vaccination against yellow fever and malaria in certain risk areas (not in Bogota or Cartagena).

Weather

The weather is hot and humid all year round in Cartagena with average temperature for September being 27 C /82 F. Be prepared for showers. Water temperature is 26 C

Main contact in host organisation: Fabian MUÑOZ - fmunozp@saludcoop.coop

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