

# ICA General Assembly 2009

“Global Crisis — Co-operative Opportunity”

Geneva International Conference Centre  
Geneva, Switzerland, 16-20 November 2009



ica general assembly  
geneva 2009

# Invitation



## Venue

The 2009 ICA General Assembly and related events will be held in Geneva at the International Convention Centre (Centre International de Conférences de Genève CICG) - 17 rue de Varembe.

The CICG is easily accessible by public transport with numerous bus and tram stops within 2-5 minute walking distance.



## Provisional Calendar of Events

*All meetings will be held at the CICG unless otherwise indicated. Participants to the meetings listed below will be required to register with the ICA. (Note that \* indicates meetings by invitation only.)*

<b>15 November (Sunday)</b>		
14:00	18:00	ICA Board * (venue: ICA Central Office, 15 Route des Morillons, Grand Saconnex)
<b>16 November (Monday)</b>		
09:00	17:00	ICA Board *
09:30	12:00	International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (IFCO) Executive Meeting *
13:30	16:30	International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (IFCO) Plenary
<b>17 November (Tuesday)</b>		
08:30	15:30	CECOP - CICOPA Europe Board Meeting *
08:30	17:00	ICA Committee on Co-operative Research Symposium: "Co-operatives & Sustainability"
09:00	10:30	International Co-operative Banking Association Europe (ICBA-Europe) Executive Committee *
09:00	16:30	ICA Housing Board *
10:30	12:30	ICA Gender Equality Committee, Executive Meeting *
10:30	13:00	International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) Executive Committee *
14:00	18:00	ICA Asia-Pacific Standing Committee *
14:00	18:00	ICA Gender Equality Committee, Plenary & Seminar
14:30	17:00	International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) General Assembly
16:00	19:00	CICOPA Executive Meeting *
<b>18 November (Wednesday)</b>		
08:30	18:00	CICOPA General Assembly
09:00	11:30	ICA Housing Plenary
09:00	12:00	DotCoop Board *
09:00	13:00	International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) Seminar
09:00	17:00	Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW) Executive Meeting
09:00	17:00	International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) Meetings
09:00	18:00	International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO) General Assembly and International Seminar
14:30	16:30	International Accounting Standards (IAS) Working Group *
14:30	17:00	ICA Housing Seminar
17:00	18:00	ICA Africa Delegation Meeting
17:00	19:00	Cooperatives Europe Delegation Meeting
19:00	22:00	Welcome Reception
<b>19 November (Thursday)</b>		
09:00	17:30	ICA General Assembly
17:30	19:00	New Members' Reception *
<b>20 November (Friday)</b>		
09:00	18:00	ICA General Assembly
19:00	22:00	Farewell Reception (venue to be confirmed)



# Global Crisis - Co-operative Opportunity

Dear ICA Members,

It is with pleasure that we extend an invitation to all ICA members to join us at the ICA General Assembly and related meetings to be held 16-20 November 2009 at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva (Switzerland). Under the theme **“Global Crisis – Co-operative Opportunity”**, the Assembly will address the opportunities that the global economic, food and energy crisis present to co-operative enterprises and to the co-operative movement.

Of course this Assembly will be affected by the untimely death of our President Ivano Barberini. Ivano was a source of great inspiration for our Movement and a great ambassador for ICA. He will be badly missed and this Assembly will therefore be dedicated to his memory.

## Keynote speaker

He would have been very pleased that Professor Jeremy Rifkin, a noted economist and advisor to key political and economic leaders in Europe and the US, will join us to deliver a keynote address on 19 November. He will share his ideas on the key role that co-operatives can play in addressing the global economic meltdown, energy security, and climate change. He will invite the co-operative movement to be a key actor in shaping a new economic order - the *Third Industrial Revolution* - based on mutual economic benefit, environmental concern and a more ethical approach to economic and social development.

## Programme

The Assembly will focus on the fact that the co-operative form of enterprise is more resilient in periods of crisis and has an important role in contributing to global recovery despite the global recession. We are convinced that the reason for its resilience is that co-operatives operate in accordance with the co-operative values and principles that make the co-operative form of enterprise a better business model.

The ICA General Assembly will make this case by addressing ‘co-operative opportunity’ from three different standpoints.

### “A unique model of business”

The Assembly will provide information on why the co-operative model has enabled the survival and even the growth of co-operatives in this time of economic challenges. It will also look at the future of the co-operative model and challenges that lay ahead in terms of policy environments including legislation, regulation and accounting standards.

### “Improving Livelihoods”

The Assembly will be an opportunity to share evidence on how co-operatives have managed to continue to improve the livelihoods of their members and communities that they serve by maintaining jobs and providing quality goods and services at affordable prices. It will look to the future in terms of co-operatives in addressing the major challenges of the energy crisis and climate change, economic recovery and the opportunity for co-operatives to be a key player in changing the economic model.

### “An Ethical Approach”

The Assembly will in all sessions seek to help participants understand how the ethical values of co-operatives have set them apart from other enterprises who have lost the trust of their customer base.

In addition to a very timely discussion on the global crisis, there will be important statutory business including the elections of the new ICA President and global Board and the approval of amended statutes for a number of ICA regions in light of the new *ICA Rules* and *Bye-laws* which are in effect since January 2009.



*Welcome to Geneva*



*GA dedicated to Ivano Barberini*



*Keynote Speaker Jeremy Rifkin*



*United Nations*



*International Labour Office (ILO)*



*Jet d'eau*

*Photos of courtesy of AM Aeschlimann, Ricardo de la Riva, the United Nations and the International Labour Office.*

## Global Crisis - Co-operative Opportunity *(Invitation letter continued)*

Other key events which will be held during the week of the Assembly include the awarding of the **Rochdale Pioneer Prize** and **dotCoop Global Award for Co-operative Excellence**, the **launch of ICA Expo 2010** as well as meetings of the ICA sectoral organisations and thematic committees.

Further information on meeting registration, hotel reservations, nomination forms for the President and Board and the Rochdale Pioneer Prize will be sent out shortly.

In the meantime, we bring to your attention the preliminary schedule of meetings held in conjunction with the Assembly which are found on page 2 of this brochure. We hope this will enable you to start planning your stay in the international city of Geneva, home of the ICA Central Office and other major international institutions.

We hope that you will join us in Geneva.

*Iain Macdonald*  
Director-General

*Stanley Muchiri*  
Vice-President, Africa

*Ramón Imperial*  
Vice-President, Americas

*Li Chunsheng*  
Vice-President, Asia-Pacific

*Dame Pauline Green*  
Vice-President, Europe



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