



EXCERPT ICA ANNUAL REPORT 2002

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF INDUSTRIAL, ARTISANAL AND SERVICE PRODUCERS' CO- OPERATIVES (CICOPA)

Chairperson: Marian Rybar (Slovakia)

Secretary: Bruno Roelants

The Executive Committee of CICOPA held its statutory meeting in Geneva on 14 June 2002. Members focused on information from the 90th General Conference of ILO and on the issue of a revised Recommendation on Co-operatives. CICOPA members played active role in the ILO Conference with representatives in attendance from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Japan, and the Philippines.

The Executive Committee, deliberating on the question of CICOPA secretariat, appointed Mr Bruno Roelants, long-time consultant of development programmes, as the Secretary of CICOPA. Another important decision was related to the preparation of short and medium-term strategic documents.

Producer and artisanal co-operatives met in Mauritius in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly for Africa. The meeting was attended by representatives of Ministry of Trade and Co-operation and National Agency for the Promotion of Handicraft Industries who expressed interest in establishing closer co-operation with CICOPA. Participants outlined their expectations from CICOPA activities by means of filling in a questionnaire.

In the Americas, the CICOPA regional committee evaluated its activities during the period 1997-2002. Members re-elected Walter Tesch as President of CICOPA-Americas and decided divide the Region into four sub-regions as a means to improve coordination. Four Vice- Presidents were appointed to manage the activities of each sub-region.

- North America: April Bourgeois, Canada
- Central America and Caribbean: Jorge Chavez, Costa Rica
- Andes: Clemente Jaimes, Colombia
- Southern Cone: Walter Rivero

The Assembly of CICOPA-Americas also proposed that the CICOPA World Conference (Oslo, 2003) focus on the topic, "General Declaration of Identity of Worker Co-operatives".

The major event of the European Region was the "First European Conference on Social Economy in Central and Eastern Europe", organised by CECOP-CICOPA-Europe. Held on 24-25 October, 2002 in Prague, the meeting brought together over 700 persons from all over Europe, most of whom are involved in co-operative and social economy organisations. Participants included the ICA President, several ministers, high ranking government officials as well as officials from the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament, and the Committee of Regions. Seven different workshops were held on international co-operation, local development, social dialogue, academic research etc. A number of proposals were made to the European and national authorities on the development of the social economy. More information is available at: www.cecop.org

Based on member input, CICOPA has drafted a "Strategic Document of CICOPA" outlining the main policy lines for CICOPA's development. The document will be submitted to the CICOPA General Assembly for approval in September 2003 in Oslo (Norway).

In 2002 CICOPA welcomed the following organisations into membership: Mongolian Federation of Industrial Co-operatives, Korean Federation of Worker Co-operatives, and Kaakbay Entre Co-operative from the Philippines.