

Global 300 expanded to include developing economies

The ICA is initiating a survey that will contribute a development perspective to our *Global 300* project; a ranking of the importance of co-operatives in developing economies.

The launch of the *Global 300* project has brought forward requests for a similar approach to be applied to developing countries. The *Developing 300* will therefore look at the role of large co-operative and mutual businesses in these economies. It will contribute to our knowledge about co-ops in the developing world where so many of our members operate.

The list will be a ranking of co-operatives in terms of their relative importance in national economies. It is proposed to examine 30 developing economies. The methodology will be the same as for the *Global 300*, i.e. ranking on turnover (highest level of audited consolidation). Using the same methodology will ensure that we have a consistent approach to our inclusion of the various data, level of audited aggregation etc. We aim to collect data on the 10-20 biggest co-operatives in each country in terms of turnover. This will be based on audited accounts, wherever possible.

We aim to include the following information in the *Developing 300* listing:

- Rank (by turnover)
- Name of organisation
- Co-op/mutual structure

- Country of origin
- GCIS (industry classification system)
- Year of establishment
- Turnover FY 2005 in USD
- Assets FY 2005
- Website address

The *Developing 300* will not only show the importance in terms of size, it will also show that co-operatives are different. We will furthermore show that it is this difference that often makes them successful as businesses. Other variables would include percentage of GDP and market share. We are also interested in figures on employment, membership, direct members' benefits (share of profit, degree of market security, etc.).

There could also be other indicators. This data will help us commence a more detailed economic analysis on the role co-operatives play in their respective economies and sectors.

We would furthermore like to highlight not only the economic size of the co-operative and mutual businesses but also their wider societal contributions.

For the purpose of our *Developing 300* list, we have chosen countries from the World Bank's set of low and middle income economies, i.e. Low-income countries, Lower-middle-income countries, and Upper-middle-income countries. We have chosen 15 countries from the first category, 10 from the second, and 5 from the third, altogether 30 countries. We propose the spread in num-

ber of countries from each category in order to ensure sufficient variety (from the very poor to the more developed) in terms of income yet staying within the "developing economy" bracket. There are altogether 8 countries from the Americas region, 10 countries from Asia, and 12 from Africa. We propose the following countries from each category:

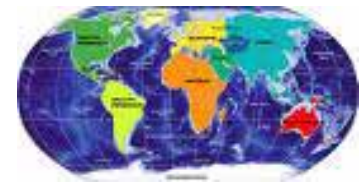
Low income:
Asia – Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam
Africa – Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda
Americas – Haiti

Lower-middle-income.
Asia – Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka,
Africa – Egypt, Cape Verde
Americas – Bolivia, Paraguay, Colombia, Honduras

Upper-middle income
Asia – Malaysia
Africa – South Africa
Americas – Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico

Contact ICA's Director of Development, Jan-Eirik Imbsen imbsen@ica.coop who is co-ordinating this part of the *Global 300* project.

Developing 300



The expansion of the *Global 300* project to include the *Developing 300* and *National 100* lists gives us the first ever chance to build a truly global database of co-operative and mutual businesses throughout the world.

Global 300 - National 100 lists!

The ICA has been approached by a number of its members to help them develop *National 100* lists of their top co-operatives based on the *Global 300* methodology. If you would like to know how you can participate contact Garry Cronan cronan@ica.coop