

Director-General on the legacy of Ivano Barberini

DG's Report

Obviously this last period has been dominated by the death of Ivano Barberini. He was a much-loved President, and hugely respected around the globe. He leaves the international co-operative movement in a much healthier state than he found it.

This *Digest* of course, has a special tribute to the enormous contribution Ivano made to the ICA, and I am very pleased to report that our June Board meeting decided that Ivano should posthumously receive the Rochdale Pioneer Award. It is the least we could do considering the enormity of his lifetime contribution to the movement.

One of Ivano's legacies will be the increasing profile of co-operative enterprise compared with the investor-owned model. The continuing economic crisis screams out for a co-operative solution, and we are doing our utmost to bring the advantages of the co-operative difference to the forefront of the debate—indeed, the International Labour Organisation has recently commissioned the

ICA to produce a paper on the *Resilience of the co-operative business model in times of crisis*.

Following on from Ivano's initiative, the internationally renowned economist, Jeremy Rifkin, will be the keynote speaker at the ICA General Assembly in Geneva in November. Mr. Rifkin will elaborate on his ideas about how co-operatives can play a key role in addressing the global economic meltdown, energy security and climate change.

With the overall theme of *Global crisis, co-operative opportunity*—we should be right at the heart of radical alternative discussion. Ivano would have been delighted!

Finally, I had already discussed my own future with Ivano, and he had agreed with my intention to retire in the course of 2010. I know that I would still want to work for the co-operative movement, but perhaps with less intensity. This job has been immensely satisfying and rewarding, and I could not have imagined a better way to conclude my full-time career—but it is time to

move on. The Board is fully aware of my intentions, and is committed to ensuring that the new appointment is carried out in an open and transparent manner. This *Digest* carries information about that process in the article below.

'I feel I have lost a friend and colleague, as well as a mentor and fellow co-operator.'

Iain Macdonald



Ivano Barberini with ICA D-G in Rome in 2004

Director-General announces retirement

Iain Macdonald, ICA's Director-General for the last seven years, has advised the ICA Board of his intention to stand down from the position during 2010.

Iain Macdonald described the last seven years as, 'the most satisfying of my career'. 'I regard being Director-General of the ICA as the

best job in the co-operative world! However, I think 62 plus is quite old enough to be rushing round the globe, although I would hope to continue working for the co-operative movement in a less intensive capacity. There is still much work to be done, particularly in raising the profile of co-operative enterprise and showing how its superior

business model can be a solution to the world's economic problems', said Macdonald.

The Human Resources Committee of the ICA Board is reviewing the process for the appointment of a new Director-General. It is expected that a call for candidacies for the post will appear early in January 2010.