

## **ICA DG Report March 2006 ICA Board Meeting**

News from the Director-General, Iain Macdonald, will appear monthly in the **Digest**. A special Director-General's page will also shortly commence on the ICA website.

This month, Iain focuses on the ICA Board meeting, which took place in Brussels, 6-7 March.

### **Question of regionalisation dominates**

Much of this board meeting was dominated by the ongoing regionalisation debate. The board agreed to set up 'Cooperatives Europe' as an interim legal entity which, in particular, will allow it to access European Union funding.

The regionalisation working group will, in consultation with the governance group, consider further courses of action for the restructuring of the European and other regions. This will be in the areas of roles and functions, financial resources, membership and legal status. After consideration by the board, these proposals will then go on to the regional assemblies later this year and be ratified by the General Assembly 2007.

The governance group also recommended that a special strategic planning meeting of the board be organised in September in Stockholm. In my report to the board, I outlined plans for a strategic framework. The Stockholm meeting will obviously be key in future ICA development, affecting the regionalisation process itself as well as the operation of the board.

Plans were also outlined for expanding the role of the international accounting standards working group. With other regional groups forming, the importance of the coordination role of the global body was emphasised.

### **Tsunami update**

Jan-Eirik Imbsen presented a detailed report and assessment on co-operative reconstruction programmes following the Tsunami disaster. Information on projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India was made available and the report will be sent to all ICA members for funding opportunities. Indeed many members had already very generously contributed to the Tsunami funds and this report also details how these funds were used. Such is the scale of the disaster however much more needs to be done.

### **Global 300**

Garry Cronan presented an uplifting report on communications. Garry emphasised the importance of the website and highlighted how further developments would be taking place. Plans were also unveiled for a news aggregation site and further information was given about the increasing interest in the **Global 300** project. As part of this, attention was drawn to the first in a series of CEO forums which will be held in Imola, near Bologna, in Italy on the 18th and 19th of April.