



The Global Co-operative Movement

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What is the ICA

“the ICA is an independent non-governmental organisation which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide”



A little about us.....

- One of the largest and oldest NGO's in the world, established 1895
- Our members includes 230 national and international organisations in all sectors of activity from 100 countries, representing 760 million individuals worldwide
- Hold consultative status with the United Nations and its agencies



Our Structure

- Combined global and regional (decentralized) structure, with offices covering:
 - *Head Office: Geneva, Switzerland*
 - *Asia-Pacific: New Delhi, India*
 - *Americas: San José, Costa Rica*
 - *East, Central & South Africa: Nairobi, Kenya*
 - *West Africa: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso*
 - *Europe: Geneva, Switzerland*
 - *Plus Project Offices, Middle East, Asia, South America*
- Sectoral organisations and thematic committees
- Governed by an elected Board



2004 President and Vice Presidents



ICA President
Ivano Barberini



AFRICA

Stanley Muchiri



EUROPE

Pauline Green



ASIA - PACIFIC

Mu Li



AMERICAS

Carlos Palacino



General Assembly

- Held every 2 years; Oslo, Norway 2003
- Includes delegates from members, sectoral organisations, thematic committees and observers, normally over 1000 participants
- Elects Board approves rules and sets overall policy direction
- Next Assembly: Colombia, 2005



ICA: Global Sectoral Organisations

- **Agriculture** (ICAO)
- **Fisheries** (ICFO)
- **Banking** (ICBA)
- **Consumer** (CCI)
- **Health** (IHCO)
- **Housing** (ICA Housing)
- **Insurance** (ICMIF)
- **Tourism** (TICA)
- **Workers** (CICOPA)



ICA Thematic Committees

- Research
- Gender
- Human Resource Development
- Communications

Both the sectoral organisations and the thematic committees may also have regional groupings

- Plus.....



Priorities for 2004

- Good communication
- Development
- Membership and organizational issues*
- Anti poverty*
- Fair trade*
- Trading links
- International standing
- Legislation and policy
- Promoting the co-operative identity



**Co-operatives
Organising to
Overcome
Poverty**



**Through strengthening
co-operative enterprise**





Priorities for 2004: Fair Trade

- Co-operatives have been among the leaders of this trend
- Provides ideal vehicle for co-operatives from the more developed economies to “twin” with co-operatives from the developing economies





Priorities for 2004: Membership

- Membership analysis and subscription review
- Sectoral liaison
- Regional strategies
- Good governance



Priorities for 2004: Trading Links, Co-operation among Co-operatives

- Great opportunities exist
- Recent initiative involving Chinese, Canadian, Singaporean, Japanese and UK co-operative movements seems promising
- Shows the compatibility of commercial success and co-operative principles



Priorities for 2004: International Standing

- UN Agencies – MOU's
 - International Labour Organisation (ILO)
 - Habitat
 - Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
- UNAIDS, WHO etc
- World Bank
- Committee for the Advancement of Co-operatives (COPAC)
- Co-operative Development Agencies, e.g. SCC
- National Governments



Priorities for 2004: Promoting the Co-operative Identity

- ICA has revised the principles 3 times, most recently in 1995
- Most widely accepted international definition of a co-operative
- Included in ILO recommendation 193 and many countries' co-operative legislation



International Co-operative Alliance

www.ica.coop