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Tuesday
October
16

ICA GA Digest

Today's program

- ICACC Executive Committee and Seminar (*Orchard B & C*)
- TICA GA (*Indiana*)
- ICBA Executive Committee (*Hullet*)
- Global Workshop on University -Campus Co-operatives (*Moor & Morrison*)
- ICA Asia-Pacifics Regional Women's Committee & Study Tour (*Carlton Hotel, Empress 2*)
- ICA Research Conference (*Enterprise*)
- ICFO Executive Committee (*VIP "B"*)
- ICA SO for Energy Co-operatives (*to be announced*)
- ICA Asia-Pacific Standing Committee (*Indiana*)
- ICFO Plenary (*Orchard B & C*)
- Global 300 - National 100 lists workshop (*VIP "B"*)
- ICBA Members Meeting (*Hullet*)
- CICOPA Executive Committee (*Mercury*)
- ICA Expo Briefing & Cocktail (*Hullet*)

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WELCOME!

This is our first issue of the General Assembly Digest. You are one of the more than 1000 co-operators to converge on Singapore this week for discussion and debate on issues of vital concern for the global co-operative movement.

Seah Kian Peng, Chairman of our host organisation Singapore National Co-operative Federation extends a warm welcome on behalf of the Singapore's Co-operative Movement and urges us to take away "... not only the good memories, but ideas and initiatives conceptualised during the conference that may extend and strengthen the co-operative movement all around the world."

ICA president Ivano Barberini encour-

ages the movement to embrace innovation and start now at the General Assembly. "In the globalised world, where the challenge is economic as much as cultural, the co-operative system must consist of visionary enterprises setting the objectives of achieving excellent business performances and building a stronger distinctive identity..."

(...continues on page 5...)

ICA President Mr. Ivano Barberini:

Co-operatives come together in Singapore

Suzanne Henderson spoke to ICA President Ivano Barberini about his hopes for a positive outcome from the 2007 General Assembly.

Digest: Ivano, What are your desired outcomes from this General Assembly?

“... My desire is that the GA will encourage and support a process of change within the global movement. There are many important developments happening in the global co-operative movement: communications, *Global 300*, innovation and the launch of our restructuring process, which I believe is so important. We may need to hold a special Assembly on this issue alone next year.

The General Assembly in Singapore brings co-operators and co-operatives together for a week to share initiatives, knowledge and common goals, a process which is in itself important in today's world.

I'm pleased that well over 1000 delegates from many regions across the world will be attending. It gives us the opportunity to hear reports on a wide range of activities from the regions, sectors and thematic committees.

We must update the movement to meet the demands of a world changing so rapidly, we need to revive our *raison d'être*. Our theme *Innovation in Business* is more important now, than ever. If we believe ideas are our main resource, it means empowerment of



women and young people, it means innovative and radical change in policy, strategies and mission, not only technology and business.

We need to re-define our role, and examine why people should support us. We have to be able to rethink co-operation and co-operatives - the reason why we exist. This is the most important question and I'm sure we can come up with a positive answer.

First of all, change is related to culture. It is human nature to resist change. For co-operatives decisions must be based on consensus, not on an authoritarian approach. It's not just about business decisions.

Globalisation is destroying local traditions. Global capitalism considers social organisation, including co-operatives, as being rooted in territory - as obstacles to development. Because national governments depend on multinationals for capital investment, what country can refuse such a development opportunity? Though this may be difficult for the co-operative movement, it must consider the risks that growth, without improving living standards, presents.

In Mozambique and China where GDP is increasing at an alarming pace there is no equivalent growth in human development. On the contrary, co-operative development is linked to improvement in living standards. Like the growth of a tree, co-ops must nurture human development.

Co-ops have been enormously successful in small, sustainable, local initiatives. Co-ops work with people. I like to call it associative development, which creates the best environment for true economic development. Co-operatives must affect this through education, resources on the ground, co-operation between co-ops, building a truly democratic way of life.

It's also important to disseminate information to our valued members, who were not able to attend this General Assembly. Our communications team, together with the GA Online initiative and the GA Digest will keep news flowing and delegates informed throughout the event and get the word out to those co-operators around the globe.”

National 100 Workshops “Building knowledge together”

Regional and national Top 100 lists based on the Global 300 methodology are already making headlines. The US top 100 co-ops recently revealed their 150 billion dollar contribution to the US economy and the role of co-ops in the environment. Don't miss the opportunity to hear the leading thinkers and creators of the Global 300 programme discuss how evidence based research can help your co-operative. Garry Cronan and Iain Macdonald are joined by Barry Silver of the National Co-operative Bank, Paul Hazen of the NCBA (National Co-operative Business Association) and Rainer Shluter of Cooperatives Europe among others to explore the benefits of data gathering and CSR reporting to advance the co-operative business model. “The project is about measuring co-operative success,” explains Garry Cronan, Global 300 Director “both to see how well we are doing as businesses, and to give others a clearer idea of how co-operatives function.”



Global 300 makes headlines

Journalists from the local and international news media will today attend a press conference that unveils the new Global 300 Listings.

Local media experts Buzz Communications were engaged by the hosts SNCF (Singapore National Co-operative Federation) to help spread the co-operative message and attract media interest. News desks and business analysts in particular were tantalised by the global size and scale of the co-operative movement as revealed by the new global 300 turnover figures.

“What this research proves beyond doubt” explains Global 300 Director, Garry Cronan, “is that in any debate on the best business model of the future, co-operatives deserve and will ultimately get far greater visibility.”

This year the list is supplemented by a ranking of the top 100 Developing Co-operatives and by CSR reports from both these lists, underlining how co-operatives add fiscal and social stability to national economies.

Increasingly, where the free market fails in delivering basic services (education, healthcare, social welfare, public transport, affordable energy, water and financial services to the rural poor), co-operatives fill the gap.

In some regions (Emilia Romagna, Italy), 60% of healthcare services are co-operatively run while co-operative manufacturing networks have succeeded in raising the region from the poorest in Italy in the 1970's to the wealthiest in 2005.

Singapore, seen by many to be a good example of the co-operative difference, boasts two enterprises listed in the Global 300. NTUC Income and NTUC



Fairprice, both part of the NTUC group, combine social responsibility with economic profitability, returning 65 million S\$ dollars to their members and the community through sponsorships, rebates and social programmes in 2006

“The success of our social programmes is underpinned by our commercial success,” according to Seah Kian Peng, chair of the SNCF, “But we can only fulfil our social responsibilities by remaining profitable and highly competitive as businesses.

Elsewhere, the success of micro-insurance and in particular Takaful Islamic insurance has enabled mutual insurers to grow their global insurance market share to 25%, while co-operative dairy farms account for 33% of the world market in dairy products.

In addition to their social objectives many co-operatives are leading on key questions of the environment and sustainability. David Cook of The Natural Step, who will be addressing the conference later this week, commented, “Multinationals we work with are just beginning to tackle the concept of sustainable development. Co-operatives have a lot to teach them about community and social sustainability.”



“And the co-relation between a country’s economy and the co-operative sector’s performance, highlighted by the Global 300 listing, shows the huge impact the co-operative movement has made in the world and will continue to make.”

“Importantly co-ops have to make the pitch to consumers themselves. In Singapore we have some highly successful co-operatives that are household names. They have made effective use of their unique selling points to become trusted companies with a high social contribution and impact. When co-operatives do this they are a powerful proposition - strong and sustainable organisations that have not forgotten their roots.”

“In our quest to be competitive in our respective operating environment, as co-operators let us not forget that we want to do well in order to do good.”

**Established in 1980, SNCF is the national apex organisation for Singapore’s Co-operative Movement.*

SNCF Chairman Mr. Seah Kian Peng: “Do well, in order to do good!”

Seah Kian Peng, ICA Board member and Chair of Singapore National Co-operative Federation* is effusive about the future of co-operatives both in the Asia-Pacific region and worldwide.

Speaking during a break at yesterday’s ICA Board meeting, Mr Seah said, “As businesses with a social mission at our core, we are unique entities. This ‘social’ raison d’etre is not only at our core but also gives us our competitive edge. In today’s world, when corporate social responsibility in business is a given, the fact that social

responsibility is not new to co-ops, in fact it is fundamental to our existence, gives us a competitive edge in terms of marketing and sustainability.”

Singapore, one of the world’s most competitive economies is underpinned by a robust co-operative sector.

“Singapore has a very open economy and the government is pro-business whatever form that business takes including co-operatives, so those co-ops that are well run and managed have the opportunity to thrive,” said Mr Seah.

Singapore in the spotlight.

From eWeekly Asia Vol.VII No.41 (15 Oct 2007)

Singapore’s National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) has tied up with its insurance cooperative, NTUC Income to develop an affordable medical insurance package for both local and foreign contract workers. The 9 NTUC Co-operatives are formed by the labour movement with the primary purpose to serve workers and their families. Each of them are trail blazers in the industry they excel in.

WELCOME!

(Continued from page 1..)

The General Assembly gives members the opportunity to participate in this process, to shape and determine the future direction of the ICA. "GA 2007 will mark the end of a long process of reflection on our structure, and the functions of each part, allowing us to move forward in a more strategic manner", says Ivano.

"The breadth of the programme gives delegates unprecedented insight and participation in all areas of ICA activity," says ICA Deputy Director, Maria-Elena Chavez.

Let us not forget too, that the co-operative movement is a people's movement and the General Assembly provides a wonderful opportunity to meet other, like-minded people.

"Our biennial Assemblies bring the regions and the people together, face to face to exchange views and learn from each other," says Garry Cronan, ICA Director of Communications. "It's a real way to practice that most important of co-operative principles, co-operation between co-operatives."

ICA Director General, Iain MacDonald, says the theme of the general assembly, *Innovation in Co-operative Business*, suggests a new and vibrant approach to addressing a number of serious challenges affecting co-operatives. "Our destiny is to constantly renew," says Iain, and as we go about our weeks activities, we have the unique chance together to take stock of our achievements as a collective movement, and to define the path ahead.



ICA Board news: From the Director General

"I took the opportunity to present the draft of a Four-year Strategic Plan. The Board agreed that the plan was in the style and scope they wanted, but given that we will now be organising a special General Assembly in 2008, the plan, once approved, will be introduced in 2009.

Next year is a transition year before the new structure is approved and implemented. My role in preparing the 2009-2013 Global Plans will include consultation with the four regions and their directors on how they would like the plan to be presented in a collective fashion to the Board. Our aim is for the plan to eventually include the nine sectoral organisations. This is subject to GA approval of the report, the proposal for a special General Assembly next year, following consultation with all those involved. Consultation will also be sought on the rules for Global ICA and a new subscription formula.

Garry Cronan's preview of the Global 300 list and new communication initiatives were applauded by the

Board. The December 2007 meeting of the Board will consider funding for the *Global 300* programme among other priority areas.

In regard to the positive proposal for restructuring of the African region, the Board requested the ICA secretariat to set up a meeting with all donors and partners in Africa along with the Vice President and executive members, to develop a new co-operative strategy for Africa."

ICA Board member Gun-Britt Mårtensson spoke in glowing terms about collective decision making and consensus among Board members: "It was a very successful and inclusive Board meeting today, I believe largely because it encouraged close scrutiny of issues, in-depth discussion and consensus. One of the most important issues was the decision to finally put down a footing for the Restructuring Working Group and all recommendations were accepted. One of the most important outcomes is that we now regard the ICA as *one* ICA."

Movement looks to the future through young innovators

The 2007 General Assembly kicked off on Sunday 14 October with the voice of young co-operators. More than 150 young delegates from 18 countries around the world came together at the Global Youth Conference at the Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore.

Seah Kian Peng, Chairman of SNCF welcomed the delegates and ICA President, Ivano Barberini gave the opening address.

“Young leaders can help innovate and they need encouragement and opportunities,” says Ivano Barberini. “If younger people have an innovative spirit and older people have experience, it’s about mutual advantage.”

Dr Hagen Henry, Head of Co-operative

Department of ILO spoke on the theme “Co-operative Innovation through Youth” followed by Dr Phu Huynh of ILO Asia-Pacific Regional Office, on “Youth Employment Challenge” and Ms Elim Chew, Managing Director of 77th Street Singapore on the topic of “Social Entrepreneurship”.

Ms Chew told the delegates that, “Co-operative leaders are ordinary people who chose to do things differently with extra-determination...they read the word ‘impossible’ as ‘I’m possible’”.

Young people shared their thoughts and ideas with the speakers at the Q&A session. LEGA Co-op delegates gave presentations in the afternoon with the Youth Member on the ICA Board, Juan Carlos Meija Cuartas, giving his views and ideas on ‘Active Youth Involvement for Co-operative Sustainability’.



Elim Chew giving an inspirational speech

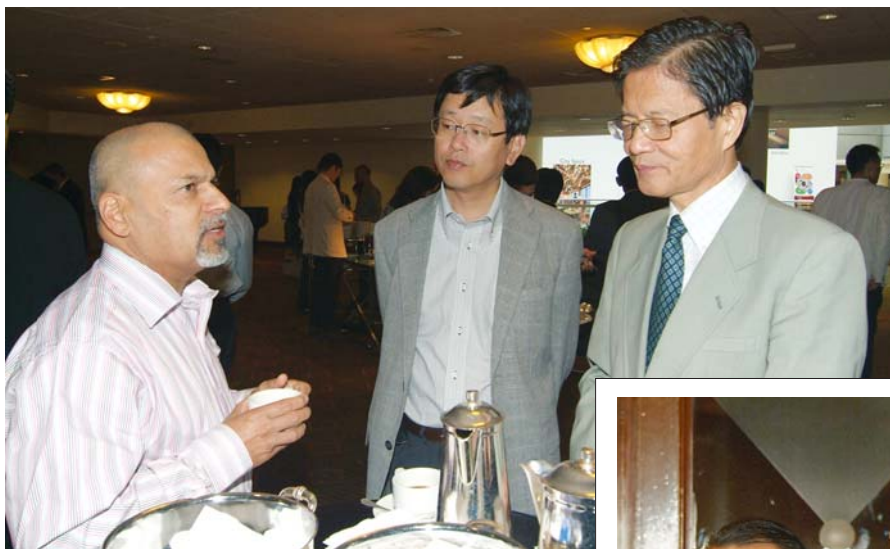
Teo Say Hong, ICA Asia-Pacific Youth Committee Chair has been elected as the new Youth Representative on the ICA Board replacing Juan Carlos. In thanking delegates for electing him, Teo



Delegates at the Conference



Ivano addressing the youth



Ivano, Teo Say Hong and Seah Kian Peng

Dr. Dongre with Dr. Kokichi Shoji and Mr. Wada of NFUCA

said he looked forward to working with youth from all regions around the world.

This week ICA youth delegates will participate in the General Assembly as observers.



ICA Sectoral Organisations

• International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO)



The ICAO, founded in 1951, is a sectoral organisation of the ICA. This organisation represents 47 agricultural co-operative organisations from over 38 countries. Agricultural co-operatives account for 36% of the total number of co-operative societies represented by ICA member organisations. These figures clearly indicate the significance of this sectoral organisation.

The ICAO works closely with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Trade Organisation of the United Nations (WTO), the General Committee for Agricultural Co-operation in the EU (COGECA), the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), European Confederation and other professional groups in the agricultural sector.

Chairperson: CHUNG, Dae-kun (NACF, Korea)

• International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA)



The ICBA was set up in 1922 by national co-operative banks and financial organisations. The ICBA mission is to contribute to the sound development, growth and competitiveness of co-operative banks in the marketplace by defending their interests and by promoting worldwide their important contribution to the economic and social well-being of the population and their communities.

The ICBA Central Executive maintains

close contact with the World Council of Credit Unions (USA), the European Association of Co-operative Banks (Brussels) and the International Raffeisen Union (Bonn).

ICBA promotes:

- exchange information among its members
- co-operation among co-operative banks,
- the development of new co-operative banks through advice and assistance,
- and undertakes research on issues of common interest.

Chairperson: Mr Jean-Louis Bancel (Crédit Coopératif, France)

• Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW)



CCW has the basic philosophy that the consumer has a right to a reasonable standard of nutrition, clothing and housing; adequate standards of safety and a healthy environment, unadulterated merchandise at fair prices with reasonable variety and choice, access to information on goods and to education on consumer topics, and an influence in economy through democratic participation.

CCW strives to disseminate information among its members and provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of valuable experiences. It also promotes business between its members.

Chairperson: Bob Burlton, Co-operatives UK

• International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO)

The International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) was originally founded in 1966, as a sub-committee of the ICA's Agricultural Committee. It became an independent body in 1976 and was known as the ICA Fisheries Committee. Today, ICFO has 27 member organisations from 23 countries.

ICFO objectives include the :

- creation of new co-operative fisheries organisations;
- promotion of co-operative training and education, including the production of educational material;
- exchange of technical information movements on a global basis;
- promotion of trade.

Chairperson: Mr. S. Uemura, Zengyoren, Japan

• International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO)



The International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) brings together co-operatives that provide health care to their members or self-employment for health professionals (doctors, nurses, etc.), or integrate consumers' and producers' co-operatives. It was founded in 1996.

Its objectives are to :

- provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of issues of relevance to its member organisation's;
- provide information to United Nations organisations, national governments, the media and the public about the nature and role of health co-operatives;

- promote the development of health co-operatives;
- collaborate with other sectoral organisations and thematic committees of the ICA.

Chairperson: Dr. José Carlos Guisado (*Fundación Espriu, Spain*)

• International Co-operative Housing Organisation (ICA Housing)



ICA Housing is the apex body of the worldwide co-operative housing movement. Its mission is to unite, represent and serve the international movement for co-operative and mutual self-help housing. Its members have come together to advance their common interest in developing sustainable human communities founded on co-operative principles and values. Through its efforts, ICA Housing strives for co-operative and mutual self-help housing to win recognition and respect throughout the world for its unlimited potential and practical achievement in providing secure, affordable shelter controlled by those who call it home.

Chairperson: Michael Doyle (*CHF, USA*)

• International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF)



Established in 1922 the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) was originally known as the International Cooperative Insurance Federation (ICIF). Subsequent years saw the

organisation develop a significant reinsurance operation and it also started to look at development issues for members.

In recent years ICMIF has seen a constantly increasing membership, rising from 75 members in 1993 to 184 in 2007 and helping it to become a unique global organisation representing co-operative and mutual insurers from around the world.

With 184 members (making up more than 400 distinct organisations) in 70 countries it is the voice of the sector. Through the delivery of a distinct range of dedicated member services the Federation aims to be actively involved with members and key external influencers, thereby creating a sustainable environment for the co-operative and mutual insurance industry ensuring its growth and prosperity.

Chairperson: Kathy Bardswick (*The Co-operators, Canada*)

• International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives (CICOPA)



The full members of The International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives, or CICOPA, are representative organisations of producers' co-operatives from different sectors: construction, industrial production, general services, transport, intellectual skills, artisanal activities, health, social care, etc. Its associated members are support organisations promoting co-operatives in those sectors.

Many of those co-operatives are worker co-operatives, namely co-operatives where the members are the staff of the enterprise, i.e. worker-members. Because of this, those enterprises are characterised by a distinctive type of labour relations, called "worker ownership", different from the one experienced by conventional employees or by self-employed.

CICOPA has 57 member organisations from 39 countries, and new national organisations of such co-operatives are continuously being established, e.g., in 2002 in Slovenia, in 2003 in South Korea, in 2004 in the USA.

Chairperson: Javier Salaberria (*Confederacion de Cooperativas de Euskadi, Spain*)

• International Association of Tourism (TICA)

TICA TICA (International Association of Tourism Co-operatives) operates as an international network regrouping tourism co-operatives or companies owned by co-operatives. TICA works closely with Bureau International de Tourisme (BITS). The benefits of TICA membership include:

- Information: TICA provides a variety of information via email including the BITS monthly electronic newsletter.
- Exchange of experience: TICA members are invited to all activities in which TICA associates itself.
- Use of the TICA name and logo
- Possibility of reciprocal invitation and promotion of products and services among members.

Chairperson: Maurizio Davolio (*Lega Coop ANCST, Italy*)

Help us Spread the News!

At this year's Assembly you will notice more ICA communications team members than before. This is because the new ICA is keener than ever to broadcast our co-operative message to our members, to the media and to the wider public. This year we don't just want to tell everyone how well co-operatives are serving their members, we want to show them.

So you may find yourself staring into the lens of a camera or at a microphone while one of the ICA communications team asks your views about the key themes of the 2007 GA, or quizzes you about what is innovative or different about your co-op.

Interviews may appear in the conference newsletter, the ICA Digest, or on the ICA news websites - some may even reach other media outlets as part of our strategy to make our members co-operative success more visible.



Question: "What do you expect from this GA?"



"... I hope that the months of preparations will bring the desired results!"
Zulkifh Mohammed - SNCF Chair of Organising Committee



"... I hope that we all get inspired to do more for the Coop Movement and do good business for our members"
Steinar Dvergsdal - Board Member



"... I am looking forward to meeting many friends from different countries."
Karen Lim - SNCF

● ICA GA Digest

Four issues of the General Assembly Digest will be produced and distributed 16-19 of October.

If you have information, comments or suggestions for any of the GA Digest issues, you will find us in the Blundell room in the Executive Conference Centre.

Liaison editor: P. Nair, phone +91-98 1050 7944, e-mail: pnair910@gmail.com.

Global Business

ICA Expo World Co-operatives Exhibition

23-25 October 2008
Lisbon, Portugal

The ICA together with FENACOOOP Trade Fairs is organising its first official global exhibition and trade fair to promote co-operative business and to create a greater visibility for co-operatives.

“A unique business opportunity for all co-operatives worldwide to interact and to do business to increase and develop new customers and suppliers.” Luiz Branco, President, Fenacoop Trade Fairs.

“The fair is an extraordinary tool for developing a relationship network,



valuing the co-operative movement and commercial interchange. It effectively presents co-operation as a modern business system with a progressive culture open to the world.”
- Ivano Barberini - ICA President.

Exhibition space will be exclusively available to ICA members from all sectors with the fair open to the general public and buyers to spread the co-operative ideals and to showcase the scale and relevance of our business model. The Expo will be divided into 5 major sections: the World Pavilion, which will feature the exhibition of the co-operative movement and 4 continental pavilions allowing members to promote busi-

nesses with the main co-operatives of each country.

In addition to the exhibitions there will be a ‘Business Forum’ with workshops, roundtables and a Bio-energy Congress focussing on the technologies, investments, markets and the commercial policies of Co-operatives in the bio-energy and ethanol market.

For further information, visit the ICA Expo organisers - FENACOOOP - in the Registration area and pick up an invitation to tonight’s Briefing and Cocktail at 1830 in the Hullet Room (RCC) and Checkout the Expo website at <http://www.icaexpo.coop>

New on-line Service for the General Assembly

During the ICA General Assembly, 14-19 October, 2007, in Singapore, we will be introducing a new feature to [ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop) - GA Online. For the first time since the establishment of [ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop), there will be daily online reports on what is happening at the GA in Singapore - including comments from GA participants.

There will be reports on presentations, proceedings and proposals - articles, pictures, audio and video clips. It will be the next best thing to actually attending! Participants at the GA and visitors to

[ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop) will also be able to contribute to GA Online - by submitting comments online. Comments will be moderated.

All the GA online content will also be fed to [icanews.coop](http://www.icanews.coop)

Find GA Online here:

The GA Programme <http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2007/index.html>
Meeting Documentation <http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2007/docs.html>
Speaker Biographiess <http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2007/bios.html>
ICA Singapore page: <http://www.icasingapore.coop/>

ICA Thematic Committees

ICA has four Thematic Committees which enable ICA members to focus on the issues of co-operative research, communications, human resource development and gender equality. Each Committee is democratically governed by its members and supported by the ICA.

Committee on Co-operative Research

The ICA Committee on Co-operative Research is a bridge between academic research and the co-operative world.

The ICACCR aims at strengthening activities and making the work of researchers more visible, particularly to managers and co-operators so that research results can be applied to current co-operatives issues. For example, questions concerning social audit, co-operative principles, innovation, globalisation and the local dimensions of co-operatives, developing co-operative advantage and the emergence of new wave co-operatives have all been reviewed from both a practical and theoretical stance. The ICACCR organises annual research conferences at the global and regional levels.

Chairperson:

*Ms Lou Hammond Ketilson
(University of Saskatchewan, Canada)*

Communications Committee

The ICA Communications Committee (ICACC) believes that the role of communication is critical to the promotion of co-operatives. The ICA has long recognised this and provided for its further development through such mechanisms as the ICACC. Its objectives include:

- improving the effectiveness and understanding of the people with responsibility for co-operative information, media and information centres in the organisations affiliated to the ICA
- contributing to the development of the co-operative media and information resources; as well as fostering contacts among co-operative communicators in order to encourage the exchange of experience and co-operation

Chairperson: *Caroline Naett
(GNC, France)*

Human Resource Development Committee

The ICA Global HRD Committee makes available knowledge, information and guidance on co-operative education and training issues to the HRD practitioner, the co-operative leader and the co-operative manager. It also provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, aspirations and practical experiences to enhance the social and economic effectiveness of co-operatives.

The Global HRD Network For Co-operatives has been established by the National Co-operative Union of India and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management in collaboration with ICA HRD Committee.

The aim of the Committee is to promote and support the initiation and

furtherance of HRD programmes within co-operatives and co-operative organisations at global, regional, national and local levels, so as to enhance their social and economic effectiveness.

Chairperson: *Yehudah Paz
(AllinPeace, Israel)*

Gender Equality Committee

The Gender Equality Committee (ICA GEC) is a thematic committee that promotes equality between women and men and gender integration in the co-operative movement and society. It was formerly known as the ICA Global Women's Committee.

The Committee has been particularly active in shaping ICA priorities. It proposed an ICA Strategy for Promoting Gender Equality (2000) and an ICA Strategy for Co-operatives Fighting HIV/AIDS (2004), both of which were adopted by the ICA Board. It works with ICA structures at the global, regional and sectoral levels to implement the ICA Gender Strategy and activities that have a gender component.

The Committee has also been active in collecting gender disaggregate statistics to map the situation of women in the Co-operative Movement.

The ICA Gender Equality Committee is a thematic committee of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) which promotes equality between women and men and gender integration in the co-operative movement and society. It was formerly known as the ICA Global Women's Committee. The Committee in changing its name, now seeks membership from both women and men.

Chairperson: *Stefania Marcone
(Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, Italy)*