

AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR WORKER COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION

On November 15 the constituent Assembly of CICOPA-Americas was held and its Rules were approved.

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CREATION OF A NETWORK OF UTILITIES COOPERATIVES

The creation of a network within the ICA was the main conclusion reached by leading cooperative delegates from Europe and the Americas in Cancun GA.

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ROCHDALE DECLARED WORLD CAPITAL OF COOPERATIVES

The motion to designate Rochdale, UK, as the World Capital of Cooperatives was adopted by the ICA General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico.

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Manuel Mariño
ICA Americas
Regional Director

“
*In the 116 years
of history of the
ICA, its General
Assembly had
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such high
attendance of
participants
from all over the
world ...*
”

Biggest ever attendance at ICA General Assembly

It is impossible to start writing this special edition of our ICA-Americas Newsletter without congratulating and thanking the global cooperative movement and cooperatives in our region in particular, for the enthusiasm and commitment with which they are rising up to the challenge of working from their cooperatives in the construction of a better world.

Firstly, we would like to highlight the hospitality of the Mexican people during the celebration of all the activities related to the ICA General Assembly, held from 14 to 18 November in Cancun, Mexico, which marked the launch of the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives. In the 116 years of history of the ICA, its General Assembly had never achieved such high attendance of participants from all over the world: more than 2000 cooperative representatives from 78 countries on five continents! Also, it is important to point out that over 1,400 of those people represented cooperatives of the Americas. In addition, the event offered online streaming; and as a result, it probably had a virtual participation of thousands of people from all over the world.

One of the most important moments of the event was the launch of the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives. World leaders at the ceremony agreed on the great opportunity of such designation to show that cooperatives are a solution for many of the economic and social problems we are facing today.

The academic level of the General Assembly was excellent, with international experts who remarked the importance of communication and the need to increase the visibility of the movement.

In this special edition we share with you some of the highlights of the event. You can read all the information related to the International Year of Cooperatives, the speech of the ICA President, Dame Pauline Green and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, who sent his message by video.

Last but not least, we offer an exclusive interview with a delegation from the World Bank on gender equity in the Latin American context and its link with cooperatives; and a brief summary of the most remarkable aspects that took place within the framework of this successful 2011 General Assembly.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Manuel Mariño. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

ICA LAUNCHED 2012 UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES



The largest ever gathering event of the co-operative movement came together in Mexico to launch 2012 as the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

“
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are a unique
and invaluable
presence in
today's world.
They help to
reduce poverty
and generate
jobs.*
”

Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General

At a time when national economies are faced with high unemployment and financial instability, the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) launched the UN International Year focused on a unique way of doing business - co-operative enterprise.

The official launch of the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives by the ICA aims to promote a self-help and development model that is also a serious business model. To commemorate the event, more than 2000 delegates from over 80 countries gathered in Cancun for the official ICA launch and to consider how to create the conditions that ignite the growth of co-operative enterprises throughout the decade. Delegates come from all sectors of the economy, includ-

ing banking, credit, insurance, housing, health, retail and agriculture.

The International Year designation provides an opportunity for co-operatives globally to come together and to raise awareness of their way of doing business. The theme for both the conference and for the International Year is — Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World.

Since the United Nations declared 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives, the ICA has stated that the global movement has been given a 'once-in-a-generation' opportunity to take a massive step forward, and lead the growth of the co-operative movement in all parts of the globe.

President Dame Pauline Green who officially launched the International Year at the opening ceremony of the General Assembly said: “To do this, we need to massively increase the knowledge and visibility of the size and sustainability of our business model, and of its reach into virtually every community across the world. Our General Assembly in Cancun affords us the opportunity to raise our global profile by using IYC 2012 to create common global messages and a common global presence, to influence key decision makers worldwide to support our movement that is producing solutions to the economic and sustainability problems of today’s world.”

Co-operatives are successful values-based businesses that are owned and democratically controlled by their members—the people who use the co-op’s services or buy its goods.

“*Co-operatives have been resilient during this economic crisis, building a better world for their members, and the International Year of Co-operatives offers us all an opportunity to take this message to the people of the world.*”

Dame Pauline Green
ICA President

“Consumers have lost trust in the traditional banking system and are joining co-operative banks and



credit unions, a type of co-operative, because they trust them.” said International Co-operative Alliance Director-General Charles Gould. “The demand for this type of banking indicates that consumers want businesses that put their needs first.”

Ban Ki-moon called co-operatives a “unique and invaluable presence in today’s world”

UN Secretary General congratulated the ICA and co-operative community on sustainable business model that reduces poverty and generates jobs.

In a video message played to an audience of over two thousand delegates attending the ICA General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon congratulated the ICA and its members for their contributions to the global common good. Moon’s message came a little over two weeks after the United Nations launch of International Year of Co-operatives, taking place in the year 2012.

“Co-operatives are a unique and invaluable presence in today’s world,” said Moon. “They help to

reduce poverty and generate jobs,” he continued.

In his message, Moon emphasised the role that co-operatives play in strengthening communities socially and economically. He recognised that co-operatives are value-based businesses and are rooted in their communities because they are owned by their members.

In closing, Moon called upon ICA President Dame Pauline Green, the audience and the co-operative community to “create better businesses and a better world” through co-operative enterprise.

“I thank Secretary General Moon for his message on behalf of the global co-operative movement,” said Dame Pauline Green as she launched the International Year on behalf of the International Co-operative Alliance at the General Assembly. “As he noted, co-operatives have been resilient during this economic crisis, building a better world for their members, and the International Year of Co-operatives offers us all an opportunity to take this message to the people of the world. It’s our opportunity to tell this positive, powerful story.”

MEXICAN PRESIDENT SAID A STRONG CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY IS VITAL FOR MEXICO



Mexican President pledged his support to the co-operative movement and told the General Assembly that Mexico will actively participate in the International Year.

The President of the United States of Mexico, Felipe Calderón, addressed the international co-operative community on the last day of the ICA's biennial General Assembly. The head of state of the host nation told the participants of the General Assembly that Mexico shares the values of the co-operative movement. He stated 'We share the values of co-operativism. Mutual help, fair employment, corporate social responsibility, sustainable human development, the participation of citizens and democracy.'

The G20 leader spoke candidly about his experience of co-operatives and about the value that he saw those enterprises bringing to society, not just in terms of the economy but also in terms of human investment. He

told the global audience that as President he had the privilege of visiting many co-operative enterprises in Mexico on different scales and in different sectors where he had seen 'the social economic contribution of co-operatives'.

The President continued "You have contributed to develop the capacities of the less fortunate ones; helped strengthen the social fabric that has been damaged by the challenges that we have before us. Thanks to the co-operative movement, millions of human beings have been able to overcome poverty and discrimination."

Calderón renewed his government's commitment to the UN International Year of Cooperatives with the words 'we will use the UN Year to spread the message about co-operatives amongst the Mexican people'.

He also told delegates that Mexico will actively participate in the International Year: 'We will participate, not only with celebrations, which

we will hold, but also with actions, positive actions and constructive actions.'

ICA President Dame Pauline Green thanked the Mexican President for the honour of his visit and extended her thanks to the Mexican co-operative movement for their gracious hospitality.

She paid personal tribute to the President on his government's achievements in extending health and education services over the past five years of this presidency.

Dame Pauline outlined why it was so important for the International Year to be taken seriously by key political and economic decision-makers. 'Our aim is to make a breakthrough in the level of knowledge about the values led, member owned co-operative business experience. This is not an alternative model to our investor led competitors, but we believe it is a better way to do business - putting people first.'

COMMUNICATION EXPERTS DISCUSSED COOPERATIVE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Media guru Sam Graham-Felsen and Philippe Cousteau, environmentalist, journalist and filmmaker, addressed the ICA General Assembly with a message that co-operatives hold the answer to many of the big challenges facing the world and that the movement needs to engage more and more people who are looking for a better world.



Sam Graham-Felsen, Obama's Chief Campaigner Blogger encouraged the global co-operative movement to embrace new technology and to use the launch of the UN's International Year of Co-operatives to spread the word about co-operatives online.

He told ICA General Assembly that the opportunities to spread the message of co-operatives using social media are there for the taking.

Graham-Felsen highlighted at the

outset of the International Year of Co-operatives, the opportunities for the co-operative movement to harness the passion of young people calling for change and looking for a different way, especially in light of the recent Occupy movement demonstrations around the world. He added 'This is your moment - go with it and make the most of it'.

Sam Graham-Felsen worked on Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign and ran the main cam-

paign blog. The BBC declared that 'internet was key to Obama victories' in the presidential race. The Obama new media team recognised the power of ordinary people and used technology to help them to organise. \$500 million dollars was raised online for Obama's campaign in mostly small donations, two thirds of all campaign funds raised. By the end of the campaign Obama's team had 13 million people on their email list, by far the largest list in political history.

Co-operatives have the potential to change the status-quo'

Philippe Cousteau told the ICA General Assembly that the co-operative movement has solutions to the big global issues that will provide the world with hope for the future.

Philippe Cousteau expressed his view that the economic status quo is not working with the words 'The world is setting itself up for failure'. He went on to tell the conference that 'the status-quo will change. It is up to us to change it on our terms'

Mr Cousteau highlighted the values of the co-operative movement, which are rooted in local communities. 'Co-operatives are not just run by some distant executive committee worried about profit margins. By their very nature co-operatives care about communities. The very values of sustainability that you need to even be considered a co-operative, are the values that the world needs to embrace if we are going to have a sustainable future'. He added 'These are the values that you stand for and you have always stood for. The world just needs to hear about them.'

He took the opportunity to encourage the co-operative movement to continue its work to inspire young people with a co-operative message of hope. 'Co-operatives should focus on young people. You need to do everything you can to channel the passion of young people because young people have the power to change consumer behaviour'

Mr Cousteau also stressed the importance of the work that co-operatives do to promote equality in a world where for so long women have not been considered as equals. He told the conference that the fact that co-operatives around the world give women a vote who have never had a voice was an 'amazing thing' and he urged the movement to con-



tinue to empower women in this way.

He asserted his support for the co-operative movement with the words 'I am with you. I am so excited about the potential of the co-operative movement. A movement which has been around for a long time, but a movement that has the potential to blossom and reignite passion in the world'

Cousteau is a member of the legendary family of ocean explorers. His grandfather was the explorer Jacques Cousteau and Philippe is continuing this legacy by educating the public about environmental and conservation issues. In 2000, he co-founded EarthEcho International with his sister Alexandra Cousteau. EarthEcho International is based in Washington, D.C. and its mission is to 'empower youth to take action that protects and restores our water planet.' He also works as a reporter for CNN and for the Discovery Channel, as well as being Chief Ocean Correspondent for Animal Planet and Planet Green, where he is creating a series of ocean documentary programmes.

“*Co-operatives are not just run by some distant executive committee worried about profit margins. By their very nature co-operatives care about communities. The very values of sustainability that you need to even be considered a co-operative, are the values that the world needs to embrace if we are going to have a sustainable future.*”

Philippe Cousteau

”

IMPORTANT DECISIONS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Two initiatives presented by ICA-Americas were discussed at the General Assembly: the motion to designate Rochdale as the World Capital of Cooperatives, which was approved unanimously, and the proposal for the modification of the 7th Cooperative Principle, which was not approved but it was agreed to refer the issue back to the ICA Board and to consider it again in Manchester next year.

The motion to designate Rochdale, UK, as the World Capital of Cooperatives was adopted by the ICA General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico.

The Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers was a group of weavers and other community members who formed an early consumer cooperative in 1844. Today's Cooperative Principles are based on the original set of cooperative principles drafted by the Rochdale Pioneers. Rochdale is located about 16 km from Manchester.

One year ago, in November 2010, during the IX ICA-Americas Regional Assembly celebrated in Buenos Aires, Argentina, ICA-Americas agreed to present a motion for the declaration of Rochdale as the World Capital of Cooperatives. On Friday, 18 November ACI General Assembly gathered in Mexico approved the motion. The announce-

ment comes as the borough prepares to welcome visitors from around the world for the International Year of Cooperatives next year.

Council Leader, Councillor Colin Lambert, said: "This is fantastic news and a real boost to the borough and our plans for 2012. Rochdale has always been acknowledged as the place where the Cooperative Movement started but to be formally recognised as the World Capital is outstanding and something everyone can be proud of."

The motion called for Rochdale to have the unique status given it was where the Rochdale Pioneers opened the Toad Lane shop, setting out for the first time the values and principles that were the catalyst for the global Cooperative Movement.

Following the declaration, ICA

President Dame Pauline Green said: "I am absolutely delighted that Rochdale has been given this international recognition. The turnover of the world's 300 biggest co-ops now amounts to over US \$1.6 trillion. The 28 Rochdale Pioneers spawned a worldwide Movement which is owned by nearly one billion people and, according to the United Nations, now serves over half the world's population.

Some countries have adopted national capitals of co-operatives such as Sunchales in Argentina and Nova Petrópolis in Brazil but this is the first time a World Capital has been proposed.

ICA TO CONSIDER PROCESS FOR AMENDING 7TH COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

The IX ICA-Americas Regional Assembly celebrated in Buenos Aires, Argentina, also agreed to present a

motion for the modification of the Seventh Cooperative Principle (Concern for community) adding the words "and environmental sustainability".

Delegates to the ICA General Assembly voted to refer back to the ICA board this resolution which would amend the Seventh Principle to read "Concern for community and environmental sustainability." ICA-Americas had proposed this change in an effort to reinforce

the need to protect the environment.

While most if not all delegates agreed with the spirit of the resolution, many felt they had not been given the opportunity to consult their members in their home countries.

David Button, chair of Cooperatives UK, moved that the issue be referred back to the ICA board, and that the board develop

a process for amending the principles, to be considered at a special meeting of the ICA General Assembly in Manchester next year.

The resolution was one of two related to environmental sustainability discussed at the General Assembly. Delegates voted overwhelmingly in support of a resolution urging ICA member organization to use sustainable timber and forest products.

MEXICO MAKES THE MOST OF BEING THE VENUE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT



Before the inauguration of ICA General Assembly, Ramón Imperial Zúñiga, ICA-Americas President, announced the beginning of a big national crusade to highlight credit unions' image. He argued that credit unions are a viable alternative for millions of Mexicans to face the crisis ahead.

During his speech, he explained credit unions are very successful around the world and that the

Mexican sector will seek the support of the government, legislators and financial authorities to ensure an adequate legal framework and public policies in accordance with a sector that brings together 5 million Mexicans and encourages productive sectors.

He pointed out that in Mexico there is a strong cooperative culture but the lack of public policies for the cooperative sector has led

to slow development of the sector.

He stated that there are more than 10 thousand cooperatives and other entities of savings and loan, but there is no real data about what is their impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He also stressed that during 2012 there will be a lot to do to promote the "culture of cooperation".

AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR WORKER COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION: RE-LAUNCH OF CICOPA-AMERICAS

On November 15 -in the framework of the ICA General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico- the constituent Assembly of CICOPA-Americas was held and its Rules were approved. Thus, the sectoral organization, which has as one of its objectives to "support the development of initiatives that foster the creation of worker cooperatives in the Americas" was finally constituted.

The International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives of ACI-Americas, is the sectoral organisation of CICOPA for the American region of the International Co-operative Alliance and its abbreviation will be CICOPA-Americas. It is an advisory, non-legally binding body of the ICA-Americas Board, which has been constituted to increase enterprise competitiveness of all of its members.

As it was established in its Rules "it is a non-profit sectoral organization and its objectives are the institutional, economic, social, cultural, educational and scientific representation of worker cooperatives."

CICOPA-Americas will work independently of any government or political party; respecting the values and principles of the ICA.

The Rules of this sectoral organisation are based on CICOPA's Regulation Framework as well as ICA-Americas sectoral organisations Rules and Regulations.

Any worker cooperative of the countries in the American continent

can be member as long as it is directly related to the sector. It can be either individual cooperatives or integration bodies.

CICOPA-Americas is expected to formally gather every two years but there could be extraordinary meetings at any time. The activities will be developed in coordination with ICA-Americas and its Regional Office.

It should be pointed out that CICOPA-Americas member organizations will be able to organize themselves at sub-regional level: North America, Central America and the Caribbean, the Andean Countries and MERCOSUR.

The following delegates took part in the CICOPA Constitutive Assembly:

- CNC de Actividades Diversas (Mexico): Víctor Manuel González
- Ascoop (Colombia): Carlos Acero Sánchez.
- Conpacoop (Paraguay): Emilio Lugo Valenzuela.
- Canadian Worker Co-op Federation: Alain Bridau & Hezel Corcoran.
- Federación de Cooperativas de Producción (Uruguay): Jorge Alvario.
- Fecootra (Argentina): José H. Orbaiceta.
- OCB (Brazil), worker cooperatives: Geraldo Magela.
- UNISOL (Brazil): Arildo Mota Lopez.
- US Federation of Worker Cooperatives: Rebecca Kemble.

Javier Salaberría, President of CICOPA and Bruno Roelants, Executive Secretary of CICOPA, were also present in the Assembly, as well as Manuel Mariño, Regional Director of ICA-Americas. There were also representatives from Mexico, Italy, Argentina and Costa Rica.

CICOPA-Americas Board was unanimously elected:

- President: Arildo Mota, UNISOL (Brazil)
- Vice-president: Rebecca Kemble, USWFC (United States)
- Secretary: Victor Manuel González, CNC de Actividades Diversas (Mexico)
- Treasurer: Carlos Acero Sánchez, Ascoop (Colombia)
- Emilio Lugo, Conpacoop (Paraguay)
- Hazel Corcoran, Canadian Worker Co-op Federation (Canada)
- Jorge Alvario, FCPU (Uruguay)

Also, some ideas were put forward regarding the Work Plan for 2012. Some of the ideas presented were:

- to work on international and national events to be held;
- a communications strategy;
- to increase in membership of CICOPA-Americas;
- to support the present situation of worker co-ops in the US and Colombia and support the Indig-nants movement;
- to influence governments to strengthen development policies for worker cooperatives.

COOPERATIVE LEADERS BOOST THE CREATION OF A NETWORK OF UTILITIES COOPERATIVES



The creation of a Network of Utilities Cooperatives within the International Cooperative Alliance was the main conclusion reached by leading cooperative delegates from Europe and the Americas, who recently gathered in Cancun, Mexico.

The meeting took place on 16 November, within the ICA General Assembly. It was called by ICA General Director, Charles Gould and also participated Ben Reid, CEO of Midcounties Co-operative (United Kingdom); Martin Lowery, Executive VP External Services of NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association-USA); Klaus Niederlander, Director of Co-operatives Europe (Brussels); Manuel Mariño, Regional Director of ICA-Américas (Costa Rica) and Marcelo Gallo,

President of FACE (Argentina).

They proposed to start exchanging experiences at international level, to seek the development of sustainable and innovative projects to strengthen the influence of cooperatives in public policies. It is expected that the Network comes up with a Work Plan focused on the area of energy but also on other sectors since the Network would comprise cooperatives which render a variety of services to the community, not only electric services.

The Network of Utilities Cooperatives will pursue a new framework which enables cooperatives to access capital to develop different projects. Besides, the Network will be a shared learning space to improve cooperative business

schemes, technology and development.

The proposal for a Network of Utilities Cooperatives was presented by Charles Gould and Ben Reid, and it was warmly welcomed by co-operators in the sector of public utilities and by integration bodies from Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, the United States, Mexico, Paraguay and the United Kingdom.

During the interchange of ideas it was highlighted that cooperatives pay special attention to the generation of sustainable energy. To this end, some projects in terms of renewable energy which are taking place in the different countries were presented.

Source: Marcelo O. Gallo, President of FACE

COOPERATIVES HAVE A PRIVILEGED POSITION TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY IN ENTERPRISES



“
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According to the report presented by a delegation from the World Bank during the General Assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance, over the last decades, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has made great progress in terms of promoting gender equality. However, there have been mixed results in translating this progress into more and better economic opportunities for women in the region. LAC countries have experienced an important growth of microenterprises led by women, but little is known about the factors that explain this trend.

ICA–Americas interviewed **Maria Beatriz Orlando**, Task Manager and Senior Economist, Poverty and Gender Unit, Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank, on this report which focuses on women's economic opportunities in the formal private sector in LAC with a special focus on female entrepreneurship and in particular to know the role that cooperatives can play in the field of gender equity.

Why did you choose ICA General Assembly as the place to launch this report?

The reason why we thought this was a good opportunity to disseminate the study is because some of

“*Cooperatives can play a very important role in overcoming some of these barriers taking into account that by its own structure and organization cooperative enterprises can give a good response in terms of greater access to technology and networks.*”

the barriers we have identified - that are holding back the growth of women entrepreneurs, especially in their businesses- include the issue of access to networks, markets and technologies. It is important to point out that cooperatives have a privileged position to collaborate breaking down these barriers; this means they can provide women with access to networks, access to markets and access to technology.

Which are the most remarkable outcomes of the research?

The first outcome is that gender equity has made great progress in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in institutional matters, in education and access to health services. However, these breakthroughs have not resulted in equity in economic opportunities,

particularly in entrepreneurship. There is a large number of women entrepreneurs, so in terms of the numbers, we believe that there is gender equity between entrepreneurs business women and men.

However, gender-based inequalities between male and female entrepreneurs persist. On average, companies led by women have less productivity and fewer benefits and this is extremely worrying. After applying different research tools, we came to the conclusion that once you compare companies of the same size these gender gaps disappear, except at the level of micro and small enterprises. The gap in productivity and profits is put down to the gap that exists in micro and small enterprises. Our conclusion is that we must promote not so much the existence of business women -which is what we have promoted until now, and it is fine- but now we have to focus much more on how these companies led by women can grow and operate at other scales.

Did you managed to identify the reasons for this inequality at the level of the micro and small enterprises?

Within the reasons that we found for these inequalities there are some that are directly linked to the business environment and are affecting both men and women. There are reasons that affect women disproportionately. Many women mentioned the issue of corruption. In some countries of the region big companies must confront situations linked to corruption and this discourages women that can't deal with this situation. That's why they prefer to remain as micro and small enter-

prises. In other cases the issue of excessive taxation, strict and inflexible labour regulations and child and family care responsibilities are perceived as an obstacle to firm operation and growth.

What can be done to overcome these barriers?

The conclusion we draw is that it would be interesting that the formal private sector provides flexible working conditions such as part-time and flex-time employment, and encouraging the targeted hiring of female employees in decision-making positions.

From this point of view there is much to be done. The provision of childcare services is another area of proven effectiveness where improvements could be made. It is vital to promote good gender practices in enterprises, permissions for maternity and paternity leave and thus allowing men and women to take turns. Distributing house tasks will allow both men and women to take advantage of emerging market opportunities.

Which role are cooperatives called to play regarding gender equity?

Cooperatives can play a very important role in overcoming some of these barriers taking into account that by its own structure and organization cooperative enterprises can give a good response in terms of greater access to technology and networks. In the nature of the cooperative organization are the factors that promote gender equity.

To see the full report *Women's Economic Opportunities in the Formal Private Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean* [click here](#).

ICA LAUNCHED COOP 'ART CONTEST FOR YOUNG CO-OPERATORS ALL OVER THE WORLD

Coop 'art is one of the ICA strategies to invite young people to take part in the cooperative movement. The competition was conceived by José Antonio Chavez, the youth representative on the ICA Board.

This global artistic competition, designed to encourage youth to creatively express their views on co-operative principles, was launched by the International Co-operative Alliance at their General Assembly.

Anyone can enter provided they are aged between 16 and 35. The competition has three categories for submissions - photography, video and music. Entrants in the global competition can submit their work through the ICA's new website www.2012.coop which has been also launched at the General Assembly in Cancun.

First prize for the winning entry in each of the three categories is USD 3000 and a trip to the World Co-operative Forum in Manchester, UK in November 2012, where there will be an award ceremony. Second prize is in each is USD 2000 and third prize is a tablet computer.

IYC now has its official poster

Collage-No, a co-operative design agency based in Valencia, Spain are the winning designers of the ICA's IYC Poster Competition and walk away with USD 3500 prize money. Besides, a global artistic competition designed to encourage youth to creatively express their views on co-operative principles was launched by the International Co-operative Alliance at their General Assembly.

The winning design was produced in a co-operative way, with each artist designing a different section using different techniques on a piece of paper folded into three, without being able to see what each other had created. The artists, which worked following the idea "Cooperative enterprises build a better world", had no idea what

the form would look like until they unfolded the piece of paper at the end of the process to reveal the poster.

The IYC posters have been on sale on the ICA's new website for the International Year - www.2012.coop since 1 December 2011.



ICA SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTE ON CO-OPS AND PEACE

The International Co-operative Alliance will support efforts by Canadian co-op historian Ian MacPherson to establish an institute to study the role co-operatives play in fostering peace and social cohesion.

Professor MacPherson and Yehudah Paz, founder of Israel's Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development, have been working together on the creation of the Co-operative Institute for the Promotion of Peace and Social Cohesion.

The Institute, which would report to the ICA board and the General Assembly, would serve both as a framework for the development of programs related to co-operatives and peace and as a focal point for thinking, research and analysis.

The resolution to support the establishment of the institute was sponsored by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), Co-operatives



Israel and the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union.

Earlier in the week, Professor MacPherson and CCA Vice-President Jill Kelly, who spoke in

favour of the resolution at the General Assembly, led a workshop on co-ops and peace for participants in the Cancun meeting.

Source: CCA

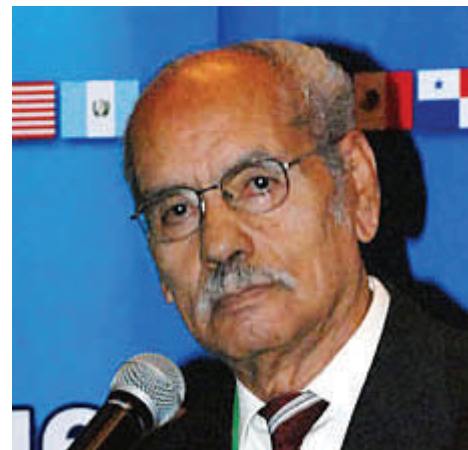
ROCHDALE AWARDS HANDED OUT IN CANCUN AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Professor **Florencio Eguía Vilaseñor**, the advisor to the Mexican co-operative movement, received the Rochdale Award at the ICA's General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico.

This professor, who is considered to be the precursor of the credit union movement in Mexico, received the award from ICA Director-General Charles Gould, who also gave the

award to Jong-Koo Lee.

In 2000, the ICA Board established the Rochdale Pioneers Award. The purpose of this Award is to recognise a person or, under special circumstances a cooperative organisation, having contributed to innovative and financially sustainable co-operative activities that have significantly benefited their membership.



- 1 ICA president, Pauline Green to Chair UN Advisory Group for IYC.** Dame Pauline Green, ICA president, is to chair the United Nations Advisory Group for the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC). The group will provide guidance, support and assistance to the Coordinating Committee in implementing the mandate and objectives of the IYC.
- 2 Two new ICA board members elected from Poland and Iran.** General Assembly delegates voted in two new board members of the ICA on the closing day of proceedings. Elected to the board were Albolhassan Khalili from Iran Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Processing Co-operative (Farda) and Janusz Paszkowski, from the National Auditing Union of Workers Cooperatives (NAUWC) of Poland.
- 3 Special ICA Assembly in Manchester.** An Extraordinary General Assembly is set to be convened by the International Co-operative Alliance next year. Ahead of the expiration of a four year strategy that was formed at the General Assembly in Rome, in 2008, the ICA is to build upon that strategy at the Manchester event in the UK.
- 4 ICA ExpoCoop 2012.** The International Co-operative Alliance is organizing the third global fair for the co-operative movement: ICA ExpoCoop 2012 – Manchester, UK. ICA ExpoCoop is a landmark in ICA's efforts to promote co-operative business as well as to create a greater visibility for co-operatives with main focus on food, beverage and products. The fair provides participants with the strengthening of the co-operative image and brings business opportunities and commercial benefits. Aimed at gathering the world's most renowned co-operatives in a single space, the movement's main trade fair encourages the sector's exports and imports by attracting a highly qualified public interested in their products.
- 5 Mutuels can join International Co-operative Alliance.** Mutuels are to be allowed membership of the International Co-operative Alliance. Following on from a two-year review from a Mutuels Working Group, it was recommended to delegates at the ICA General Assembly in Cancun that mutuels should be allowed full membership. This will only apply to those mutual organisations that operate in conformance with the Co-operative Values and Principles and each application will be examined on a case-by-case basis. The working group said that the encouragement of appropriate mutual organisations within ICA membership would strengthen the representation and solidarity of organisations that adhere to co-operative principles.
- 6 The International Co-operative Alliance continues growing globally.** Nowadays ICA has **269 member organizations** (231 full members and 38 associate members) from **97 countries** representing approximately **1 billion** individuals worldwide.

All of your suggestions and proposals regarding the newsletter's contents are very important for us, since our primary goal is to provide a publication enriched by your opinions.

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