

## End of Year Newsletter

### 1. Message from the President



We are ending a year of intense work, with great shared moments. We have met many times to think and reflect, to plan and carry out actions that contribute to making the co-operative movement visible and to position it within the international context.

Our societies are going through hard times, in the economic, social and political aspects. As young people we know that the labour situation is complex, that it is not always easy to accomplish our projects. These are key problems, which we can't ignore and as a co-operative movement we can seek ways to deal with them together.

We know there's a lot to do and to improve, that we have to keep promoting the quality of the young people's participation in their co-operatives, encouraging the development of educational strategies, and especially seeking the commitment of co-operatives to provide more opportunities to young people.

Sadly we recently had the news of José Antonio Chávez Villanueva's death, a young cooperative member who represented us in the best way possible and who worked actively in the development of youth networks. Through this year we've been able to share moments with him, and share his ideas and projects. That's why he will remain in our memory and his departure commits us even more to continue strengthening this space that he helped initiate.

With the following lines we want to share with you the progress we have accomplished through the year 2014 and also tell you about the projects for the next year. We take this opportunity to greet and wish you all a great start for the New Year.

In 2015, the global Youth Network will focus on the following projects. More information on these projects is provided in this newsletter:

1. A feasibility study for a co-operative social media platform
2. A diagnostic of the youth movement globally and regionally
3. A Youth Assembly during the week of the Global Conference and General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance: [www.antalya2015.coop](http://www.antalya2015.coop)
4. Other events for youth

### 2. Call for Consultant

The Youth Network of the International Co-operative Alliance seeks an expert consultant to conduct a feasibility study for a co-operative social media platform. The objectives of the co-operative social media platform are to support the aims of the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade. More information on the study is available on our youth network page at <http://ica.coop/en/alliance-youth-network>.

### 3. Become a Member of the Youth Network

The mailing list of the youth network is currently made up of those interested in co-operative

youth and those who have attended various conferences. The new constitution of the Youth Network now formalises this mailing list into members and adherents.

Members will be those persons up to 35 years inclusive and associated to organizations belonging to the Alliance. Individuals will need to submit a form to the Youth Network secretariat which is signed by a member organisation of the Alliance.

Adherents will be persons that although they are not associated with members from Alliance, or are not of the age of youth, support the co-operative youth movement or want to develop it. Adherents can join the mailing list, but will not be able to participate as a Member of the Alliance Youth Network. To join the mailing list, contact the secretariat at [hacquard@ica.coop](mailto:hacquard@ica.coop).

To participate in the Alliance Youth Network as a member, please fill out the membership form today!

#### 4. Country Diagnostic

In order for the global Youth Network to create a strategy that meets the needs of the co-operative youth network globally, we would like to complete a study on the youth movements. Where do strong youth co-operative movements exist? What are your needs and challenges? To help us out with this project, please contact us for the questionnaire.

#### 5. Young Scholars Programme

The International Co-operative Alliance's Committee on Co-operative Research (CCR) has developed a Young Scholars Program to promote co-operative research among new scholars. The Young Scholars Programme is open to new researchers studying co-operatives, whether graduate students, post-doctoral students and young scholars within two years of receiving their degrees.

#### 6. Young Co-operators Prize

Altgen, which supports young people starting co-ops, together with Co-operatives UK and ten universities across the country, has launched the Young Co-operators Prize to recognise new student and graduate co-operatives. The prize will support five groups of young people to set up their own co-operative enterprise by providing mentoring, business support and a £2,000 prize. 70% of the members must be in the UK. More information: [www.y-c-p.co.uk](http://www.y-c-p.co.uk)

#### 7. Call for Youth Speakers

The International Co-operative Alliance will hold its next global conference in Antalya, Turkey during the week of 10-13 November. The theme is "Towards 2020: What will your co-operative look like"?

Youth are a very important part of the future of the co-operative movement and are included in the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade. Therefore, we would like to encourage the youth movement to be part of the conference instead of holding a separate youth conference as in the past.

We need your help – if you or any other youth you know could speak on one of the various sub-themes during the conference workshops, please provide these ideas to Rodrigo Gouveia, Director of Policy at [gouveia@ica.coop](mailto:gouveia@ica.coop).

## 8. Youth Network in Africa



We are pleased to announce the creation of a Youth Network for Africa, approved by the Regional Assembly Africa in November 2014. The new interim President for the Africa Youth Network, elected at their General Assembly in November 2014, is Lawrence Monyahi, who you can contact at [madambi@hotmail.com](mailto:madambi@hotmail.com). Mr Monyahi is the National Secretary for the South African National Apex Cooperative (SANACO) in South Africa.

We now have three formal youth networks regionally – Asia-Pacific, Americas and Africa.

## 9. Message from Asia-Pacific



Dear Co-operators, Youth Advocates & Activist, Friends and Colleagues,

We achieved so much in the year 2014 and survived the error that we made and overcame some of the difficulties in 2014. Now, we are moving forward to 2015, where we must learn from our mistakes and make new ones in the process. Just with one difference, we are better and stronger than before and we are progressing slowly but steadily together.

Our Co-operative movement is the proof of that, representing the Global effort of our youth is the verification that we need and our motivation to progress is the symbol of our devotion. We have the ingredients now that we need to stir the pot to obtain our desired objectives.

In the end, I just like to share this quote by Edith Lovejoy Pierce:-

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

Have a great day, a wonderful year and a prosperous future. Keep co-operating and bless you all.

Ahsan Ali Thakur  
Youth Representative  
Karachi Co-operative Housing Society Union  
Ltd.  
Pakistan

Vice-Chairperson,  
Youth Committee  
ICA-AP

## 10. Messages from the Americas

This year was a year of achievements, successes and challenges for co-operative youth of the Americas. And we enjoyed working for youth! These were some of our achievements in 2014:

1. In July we had our 1st Regional Seminar for Youth of the Americas, in Dominican Republic, attended by over 100 young people from 11 countries in the Americas, developing a youth statement to guide the direction of the co-operative youth of our continent.
2. The committee promoted and participated in various youth events in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Argentina and Colombia. In the latter we organised the III Youth Assembly, in which the new Board of the Regional Youth Committee, represented by young leaders from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Peru, Puerto Rico and Mexico, was elected.
3. It is an honor for us to share -in support of gender equality- that our committee is composed of four women and three men, and all give our best efforts to contribute to

the objectives for which the International Cooperative Alliance in the Americas created this committee. We expect challenges and work; and need the support and participation of you. We are very interested in interacting with cooperative committees and youth leaders from other regions of the globe.

In 2015 the Committee in the Americas will work on six central aspects:

1. Communications Technology for Youth.
2. Events for young people.
3. External impact with public agencies and universities.
4. Training and development of methodologies and models of cooperative education for young people.
5. Structures and capacity development of national youth committees and local.
6. External exposure and image of youth activities in the region.

For more information: [www.facebook.com/crjcoop](http://www.facebook.com/crjcoop) **Twitter:** @crjcoop **Email:** [juventud@aciamericas.coop](mailto:juventud@aciamericas.coop)

Álvaro Ernesto Guevara  
Vice Chairperson  
Youth Network  
Caja Popular Mexicana  
Mexico

Chairperson  
Cooperatives of the Americas Youth Network

As part of the Co-operatives of Americas Regional Office I want to pause and recognize our deepest gratitude. I do not mention all the reasons for this, but I want to highlight three:

1. You! and people like you, with a spirit of solidarity and commitment.
2. Members and partners! In this Regional Office every day we are more motivated for their inspiration and dedication. 98 organizations of America and their representatives had the confidence in the International Cooperative Alliance and decided to work together to achieve objectives in common.
3. Achievements!

2015 will be a year full of challenges and opportunities for each of us, and especially I invite you and all the young people to find or strengthen those reasons that motivate to do the best in everything. Let us remember that the cooperative movement is a space for all, in which in addition to develop ourselves as individuals can contribute to the development of other people.

Lauren T. Naranjo Jiménez  
Youth Network  
Cooperatives of the Americas

**Voices of the members of the Youth Board in the Americas:**



*"This year was successful for the co-operative youth of the Americas"*

Chairman

**Álvaro Ernesto Guevara**

Mexico - Caja Popular Mexicana



*"We are committed youth co-operatives and we need you to achieve"*

Vice-chairman

**Gabriel Di Francesco**

Argentina - Cooperar



*"We invite you to join us on our website and contact us"*

Secretary

**Amarilys Roldán Reyes**

Puerto Rico - Cooperative League



*"I invite the youth to join the co-operative movement that we all make one team"*

Treasurer

**Yilda Adary Oviedo Gómez**

Dominican Republic - Coopronf



*"I want to invite you all to work with youth in their co-operatives and diffuse the co-operative message"*

Member

**Alicia Edith Chávez García**

Peru - Francisco Bolognesi



*"I invite everyone to take a step further and have faith in you: young"*

Member

**Carlos Medrano Pérez**

Dominican Republic- Coopnama



*"We invite you to participate in all our activities"*

Member

**Leidy Lorena Restrepo Ramírez**

Colombia - Coomeva

## 11. Tribute to José Antonio Chávez



"Toño" chaired the Cooperatives of the Americas Youth Network since 2007 and was one of the main promoters of its transformation into the current Youth Regional Committee. He also played an essential role as an International Cooperative Alliance Youth Representative from 2009 to

2013. We are forever grateful to José Antonio for his dedication and work during all these years.

We send a fraternal embrace to his family, friends and colleagues from the Federación de Cajas Populares Alianza, and express our sincerest condolences for the loss of our dear friend.