



# International Co-operative Alliance



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## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Youth's unique messages for International Year of Co-operatives**

#### ***Winners of global art competition Coop'Art announced***

Manchester, United Kingdom – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012. An image of the co-operative nature of family life, a simple melody and a video celebrating all stages of life – were the artistic representations from global youth as they celebrated and reflected on the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives through the Coop'Art - Express Yourself global competition.

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) proudly announced the winners of its global competition today, with first place winners across the categories of photography, film and music, from the Philippines, Chile and the Dominican Republic.

Billy Rey Tamio, a government worker and freelance photographer in the Philippines, took first place in the photography section of Coop'Art with his image of a group of siblings sitting in a rough field in an old, red, metal cart waiting for their oldest brother to attach them to his bike and pedal them across the bumpy track to their farm. He said in an interview with an online news site in the Philippines that "they were so happy in spite of their condition".

Francisca Javiera Badilla Castillo from Chile won the video section with her portrayal of the role credit co-operatives play in assisting people to own their homes, helping people to become their own bosses and funding education.

And the singer and composer Roberto Morban Ramirez won online accolades for his lyrical representation of the sentiments behind youth co-operatives.

The runners up in second and third place respectively in the photo competition were Vijay Singh Rajput from India and Sara Sofia Planes from Argentina, in the video competition Joao Meirinhos from Portugal and Armina Natividad from the United Kingdom and in the music section Emily Erhardt from Canada and Francisco Javier Luevano Gutierrez from Mexico.

"We received over 170 proposals from 35 countries of Asia Pacific, Africa, Americas and Europe in what is the first competition undertaken by the ICA of global dimension, 6450 votes were registered on the website," said José Antonio Chávez Villanueva, youth representative on the ICA board. "We must continue

working to create national, regional and global formal committees that encourage and strengthen youth participation in this and other projects."

He highlighted a new project, the publication of a book on successful experiences cooperatives which have programs for youth have. "Youth has a positive answer when invited and heard," he said.

Charles Gould, Director-General of the ICA, praised the high quality of the work submitted by contestants which was a true representation of the global nature of the co-operative movement in which youth's collective passion for the positive change co-operatives can bring to society was strongly represented.

The Coop'Art competition, which was open to people aged between 16 and 35, aimed to raise the awareness of young people of the co-operative movement through photography, video and music categories and was one of the ICA's many contributions to the international year celebrations.

Mr Gould also thanked the sponsors of the Coop'Art - Express Yourself competition, The Co-operative Group, Central Cooperative Union of Bulgaria, S Group, Coop of Italy, Cooperative Central Bank of Cyprus, IPACoop and Federación De Cajas Populares Alianza.

See the winning entries at <http://2012.coop/en/get-involved/coopart/coopart-winners>

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#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

1. **The International Co-operative Alliance** is the global voice for the values-based business model of the co-operative, uniting co-operatives worldwide and providing a forum for knowledge and concerted action.

ICA was established by co-operatives in 1895. In 1946 the ICA became one of the first three non-governmental organisations to be accorded "consultative status" with the United Nations. Membership is growing and the ICA currently has around 270 members in almost 100 countries active in all sectors of the economy: agriculture/forestry, banking/credit unions, consumer, health, insurance, workers, fisheries, housing, transport and tourism. ICA members represent around one billion people worldwide, and employ 100 million people.

2. **Co-operatives** are successful values based businesses owned by their members. Whether they are customers, employees or residents, the members get an equal say in the business and a share of the profits.
3. The United Nations has declared 2012 the **International Year of Co-operatives**. With its theme of 'co-operative enterprises build a better world', the Year is an opportunity to raise public awareness of how co-operatives are successful values based businesses owned by their members.

4. Further information about the International Year of Co-operatives is available at [www.2012.coop](http://www.2012.coop).
5. Follow the ICA on **twitter** at @icacoop. Like the ICA's **Facebook** page at [www.facebook.com/internationalcooperativealliance](http://www.facebook.com/internationalcooperativealliance)

