



ILO and Cooperatives

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Editorial

We have seen a resurgence of interest in alternative forms of economic organization in the eve of the Great Recession. This dialogue hasn't been confined to a select few but spread across the political spectrum to include people who are looking to go beyond the shareholder enterprise model. Cooperatives and mutuals are re-emerging among the alternatives to reshaping economic and social life, addressing challenges ranging from rising economic insecurity and inequality to declining productivity and workplace satisfaction. In this issue of ILO COOP News we share with you a series of events, engagements, and products that aim to contribute to this transformational agenda.

The ILO DG met with cooperative and mutual leaders (MedESS and ICMIF) where he reiterated his interest in working closely with cooperatives, mutuals and other social and solidarity economy enterprises as alternative forms of enterprise that have a critical role to play in emerging out of the current crisis and for the future of the world of work. It was agreed that cooperation agreements will be drafted between the ILO and these institutions toward joint action on common areas of priority.

A number of interagency meetings (COPAC Board and UN Taskforce on SSE) took place during this period with the post 2015 development framework emerging as an area for joint action. The theme of the International Day of Cooperatives this year (July 5th) was determined as "Cooperative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all". ILO COOP has contributed to a number of e-discussions on sustainable development. ILO and ICA launched a brief version of their joint publication on cooperatives and the sustainable development goals which is now available in English from the ILO COOP website (www.ilo.org/coop). French and Spanish versions and the full report will be coming shortly.

The case for cooperative enterprises was made strongly at the ILO Solution Exchange Forum on Youth Employment during the First Arab States Regional South-South Development EXPO in Doha this year. The momentum on My.COOP training and country roll-outs continues with training sessions successfully undertaken in Nepal (with Agriterria) and Swaziland (with DGRV).

ILO's work on achieving development goals through cooperatives continued in full force in Tanzania through the component of a project on capacity building for cooperative enterprises among women and youth. We also received guests from the Korean government institutions keen on supporting the establishment of entrepreneur cooperatives for small and medium enterprises to become competitive. Our engagement with Korea will be culminating in a secondment in ILO COOP from the government during 2014.

The registrations for the fourth edition of the Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy, to be held in Brazil (July 28 – August 1, 2014), are also underway. This edition of the academy focuses on inclusive and sustainable development with resource people from and field visits to worker cooperatives, social cooperatives in the health sector as well as waste picker cooperatives.

In this edition of ILO COOP News we launch a new feature, a Cooperative History Column, with a view that knowledge of the past helps understand our current context and future plans. The first column concentrates on the ILO Correspondence Committee of Co-operation, which marks an important timeframe in the enhancement of ILO's relations with the international cooperative movement.

We are happy to let you know that from next month onward we will have a monthly electronic ILO COOP Newsflash. Please let us know if you would like to be included in the distribution list for this electronic newsflash at coop@ilo.org. ILO COOP News will continue on a bi-annual schedule in electronic and hard copy.

Simel Esim, Manager, Cooperatives Unit

COPAC Board Meeting

The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), the coordinating body for international inter-agency collaboration between the cooperative movement and the UN system on activities related to cooperatives, met at the FAO headquarters in Rome with the participation of the ILO, ICA, UN DESA and WFO. The FAO is serving as the COPAC Chair for 2013-2014. The 74th meeting of the COPAC board meeting started with member activities update, followed by a report by the coordinator and a facilitated discussion on priority areas of joint action.

Among the follow up actions agreed at the COPAC board meeting were:

- Undertaking joint action around cooperatives in the post-2015 sustainable development framework and goals. Since the time of the COPAC Board Meeting ILO and ICA came out with a joint brief on cooperatives and sustainable development goals.

- Production of a video, led by UN DESA, for the International Day of Cooperatives which will carry the theme “Cooperative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all” this year. The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July every year.
- Conducting a mapping of the work of the member agencies on statistics on cooperatives in order to follow upon the Resolution on statistics on Cooperatives as adopted in the 19th Session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013

>> For more information on COPAC, visit www.copac.coop/

>> ILO COOP News interviewed the COPAC Coordinator for its 4/2013 issue, available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_235521.pdf

ILO DG Meeting with MedESS Representatives

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder met with MedESS representatives, Gerard Andreck (MACIF), Jean Louic Bancel (Crédit Coopératif) and Roderick Egal (iesMed) on February 3rd 2014. MedESS is an initiative that promotes the Social and Solidarity Economy in the Mediterranean, with job creation, especially for youth and women, as its core strategy. MedESS organized its first event in Tunis (MedESS 2013), supported by 30 institutional partners in addition to MACIF and Crédit Coopératif. The second edition of MedESS will most likely take place in Morocco in February 2015.

The ILO DG welcomed the MedESS representatives and underlined the need for identifying practical areas of collaboration. He emphasized that the ILO has strong historic ties with the cooperative movement. Mr. Ryder mentioned his meeting with Dame Pauline Green, the President of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in December 2012,

reaching a renewed commitment in the areas of youth employment, rural economy, informal economy and crisis response. He noted that he considers working in close partnership with cooperatives, mutuals and other social and solidarity economy enterprises an important part of his enterprises engagement and the future of the world of work initiatives.

The ILO DG welcomed the idea of a cooperation agreement between MedESS and ILO covering the various common work areas of interest including promotion of legislation and development training curriculum development. Since their meeting with the ILO DG, MedESS formed an association and submitted a request for observer status in the Interagency Task Force on SSE created by UNRISD and ILO.

>> For further information on MedESS, visit <http://medess.org/2013/en/>.



E-discussion on sustainable development

As part of the debate around the post-2015 development agenda, an e-discussion on the theme “Sustaining development gains through inclusive development” took place between 17 February and 2 March, 2014. Led by Sarah Cook, Director of UNRISD, and Donald Lee, President of the International Committee for October 17, the online discussion was guided through several questions.

Experts, practitioners and policy makers were encouraged to engage in a global dialogue and discuss specific examples of national policies which have successfully challenged social exclusion. During the course of the two weeks of discussion a wide range of concrete strategies, policies and practices were identified as constructive in fostering inclusive development. Several discussants identified cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy institutions as important facilitators of or preconditions for inclusive development.

>> To find out more about the e-discussion, see: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/418954>

>> To read the ILO COOP contribution to the post-2015 development debate, visit http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_240640/lang--en/index.htm



The Asia Pacific Cooperative Registrars' Conference



The 1st Asia Pacific Cooperative Registrars' Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in December last year. The theme of the conference was “Sound tuning of Cooperative law, policy, regulation and primary cooperative by-laws”. Maurizio Bussi, the Director of the ILO Decent Work Team for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific, was invited to deliver the keynote address on the historic relationship of the cooperative movement with the ILO and the vision for future. His speech will be published in the ICA-AP Annual Report 2013 later this spring.

>> To read more about the Conference, see <http://ica-ap.coop/Structure/1st-asia-pacific-co-operative-registrars%E2%80%99-conference-passes-historic-resolution>.

Cooperative data makes the difference!

In order to improve cooperative database Euricse and ICA are looking for cooperatives' contributions for the next edition of World Co-operative Monitor. The Monitor aims at improving a multi- indicator database reporting on the socio-economic value and impact of cooperatives both within a global scenario and in their regional and national contexts. To submit their data, cooperatives are encouraged to visit <http://www.euricse.eu/en/monitor/quest>



ILO Solution Exchange Forum on Youth Employment



The ILO Solution Exchange Forum on Youth Employment was held on February 19, 2014 during the First Arab States Regional South-South Development EXPO, in Doha, Qatar. The Solution Forum encompassed a series of good practices and lessons learned on South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) on the theme of Youth Employment. It involved representatives of governments, and of workers' and employers' organisations, making it possible to address the issue from different perspectives and with an integrated approach. The Forum enabled participants to combine and better understand the relation between fundamental principles and rights at work, labour standards, employment creation, social protection mechanisms, and social dialogue in strategies tackling youth employment.

Cooperatives were presented as a solution to tackle youth employment challenges through SSTC in two separate presentations. Mr. Youssef Alaoui Solaimani, a trainer on management of cooperatives and social and solidarity economy enterprises, presented the case of My.Coop – Managing your agricultural cooperative training package, which has been translated into Arabic and rolled out in Egypt by the

ILO already. Funded initially through the ILO's COOPAfrica Programme, this training tool has a lot of potential for South-South cooperation, including translation and adaptations in new countries, enhanced use of the My.Coop e-learning platform, and possibilities for training online in Arabic.

Ms Randa Abed Rabbo Zein, Director of the Union of Cooperative Associations for Saving and Credit (UCASC) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, presented the work of her organization, which contributes to building stronger communities through creating opportunities that favour the economic inclusion of young women graduates. The success of UCASC in building women's capacities and developing their skills in accounting, banking and financial service at the level of the union and member cooperatives has inspired women's financial cooperatives in other countries in the region, namely Yemen and Lebanon to learn from and adapt their experience.



>> To learn more about the First Arab States Regional South-South Development EXPO, visit <http://doha.south-southexpo.org/>.

>> For the presentations at the ILO Solution Forum, see http://www.ilo.org/pardev/south-south/WCMS_234626/lang--en/index.htm.

International Labour Conference discusses standard setting item on formalising the informal economy

At its 103rd session, starting on 28 May, the International Labour Conference (ILC) will have a standard setting discussion on facilitating transitions from the informal to the formal economy (standard-setting double discussion) with a view to the elaboration of a Recommendation.

This will provide a good opportunity to explore the role of co-operative enterprises in formalising the informal economy by helping extend the benefits of formality to informal enterprises and through formalization of informal jobs.

In preparation for this discussion, a report on the informal economy was drafted by the ILO. It highlights a series of actions that could be taken to stimulate the transition from the informal to the formal economy, including developing

cooperative enterprises. The conclusions of the report will be discussed in more detail at ILO's conference on with the aim of adopting an instrument establishing the framework for action in the form of a recommendation.

International cooperative movement will be represented at the International Labour Conference by Bruno Roelants, secretary general of CECOP, the European confederation of co-operatives and worker owned enterprises active in industry and services.

>> To read the Report on Transitioning from the informal to the formal economy for the 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference, see http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_218128.pdf

First My.Coop training in the Nepali language

My.Coop – Managing your agricultural cooperative training package was translated into the Nepali language at the end of 2013 in collaboration with My.Coop partners ILO, Agriterra and the Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Federation NACCFL. The first training of trainers'workshop using this translated material took place in Bhaktapur, Kathmandu valley in the first week of March 2014.

The training was jointly organized by Agriterra and NACCFL. It covered the first two modules of the My.Coop package: Basics of an agricultural cooperative and cooperative service provision. The participants were mainly from the Department of Cooperatives, Small Farmers Development Bank, National Cooperative Federation of Nepal, and members and staff of agricultural cooperatives, along with NACCFL project staff from the Nepalese countryside, working with tea, dairy, cotton and honey cooperatives.

My.Coop roll out will continue in Nepal. The next step for NACCFL and Agriterra is to complete the remaining two modules of the training package for the participants. NACCFL will organize My.Coop training to leaders of its members cooperatives, who will then take the responsibility of the roll out in their respective cooperatives.



One of the co – facilitators to the training was Mr. Rabin Rai, who had already completed a distance learning My.Coop ToT course in 2013. Mr. Rai's organization, the Central Tea Cooperative Federation (CTCF) from Ilam in Eastern Nepal, represents more than 5,000 smallholder tea farmers in over 70 primary cooperatives, and provides capacity building, technical support and access to financial and other services to its member cooperatives.



Before this training in Nepalese, Mr. Rai had already facilitated a My.Coop training in his community. Through this training he got more practical exposure to new, participatory methods, and is in the process of establishing cooperative field schools in Ilam to train a total of 120 farmers in My.Coop by August of this year.

>> For more information on NACCFL, visit <http://www.naccfl.org.np/>

>> For more information on Agriterra, visit <https://www.agriterra.org/en>

>> To access My.Coop online platform, go to www.agriculture-my.coop

My.Coop training in Swaziland

On the last week of February 2014 another new country was added to the My.Coop country list. Training was delivered in Swaziland by DGRV (German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation) and ILO for 29 participants, including lecturers of the cooperative college, regional cooperative officers, marketing officers, cooperative inspectors and senior officers in the Commissioner's Office. The accredited trainers will now be rolling out the training to the cooperatives they are supporting.



Languages in which My.Coop is available

English	Spanish
French	Arabic
Swahili	Indonesian Bahasa
Nepalese	Chinese
Sinhala	Tamil

Did you know?

- In November 2013, the International Cooperative Alliance launched a new visual identity for the global movement - the cooperative marque, the first change in almost 100 years.



- Since its launch over 360 cooperative organizations, from 63 countries, have successfully applied to use the Marque on their websites, letterheads, promotions and packaging.
- The Top Level Domain .coop is used by nearly 4,500 organizations in 82 countries; giving a clear indication that they are not a .com or a .org; but that they are owned by their members and run by cooperative principles.

>> This information is from ICA, <http://www.ica.coop>.

>> For more information on the cooperative marque, including on how apply for its use, visit <http://identity.coop/>

Third meeting of the UN Task Force on SSE

The third meeting of the UN Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (TFSSE) was held on 10 February at the ILO in Geneva, with 29 participants from 16 UN agencies and civil society organizations.

The Task Force welcomed new members and observers to TFSSE. These included the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and three UN regional commissions: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In addition, RIPESS, Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM), and the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) were welcomed to the Task Force as observers.

The participants to the meeting discussed the draft of a TFSSE Position Paper, which aims to connect SSE with the major

challenges faced by sustainable development, namely: transition from the informal economy; environmental protection and green jobs; local economic development; gender inequality and women's empowerment; food security and smallholder empowerment; health for all; and transformative finance.



>> For more information on the Task Force, please visit: <http://www.unrisd.org/tfsse>

Side Event on SSE: Debating the post-2015 development agenda

A side-event on Social and Solidarity Economy was organized by the Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) in collaboration with the UNRISD and UN-NGLS on behalf of the UN Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (TFSSE) and with the support of the governments of France, Ecuador and Morocco. It was held within the framework of the 8th session of the Open Working Groups (OWGs) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on February 4th 2014 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The side-event offered an opportunity to present the final declaration of the 6th edition of the MBM, the international Leading Group on SSE

and the Inter-Agency TFSSE. Titled "Changing Economic Relations for Equality and Sustainable Development in The Post-2015 Agenda", the event was attended by more than 60 participants.

The Deputy Director of the ILO's office in New York, Mr. Vinicius Pinheiro, and the Director of UN-NGLS Ms Anita Nayar introduced the work of the Task Force, whose efforts to enter the debate on the post-2015 development agenda, and to open up to SSE networks and umbrella associations were recognized.

Fourth edition of the Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy

"Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy: towards inclusive and sustainable development "

from 28 July to 1 August 2014

Location: Campinas (BRAZIL)

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS:
13 June 2014**

We are pleased to announce that the ILO is organising jointly with the **CIRIEC** (International Centre of Research on Social and Cooperative Economy), **EESC** (European Economic and Social Committee), **FACAMP** (Campinas Faculties), **BNDES** (Brazilian Economic and Social Development Bank), **SEBRAE** (Brazilian Service of support for Micro and Small Enterprises), **SENAES** (National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy in the Brazilian Ministry of Labour), **UNISOL** (Union of Cooperatives and Solidarity Enterprises of Brazil) and **FecomercioSP** (Federation of Trade in Goods, Services and Tourism of the State of São Paulo, Brazil), the fourth edition of the:

This year the Academy will have a special focus on the Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations (SSEOs) added value in terms of inclusivity and sustainability and the role that the SSE can play in the debate of the post-2015 development agenda.

The academy is designed **for different participants**: practitioners and actors from Social and Solidarity Economy entities, as well as policy-makers and social partners.

SSE: A glimpse of Europe

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Commission (EC) co-hosted a major participatory event on social entrepreneurship in Europe, "Social Entrepreneurs: Have your say!", in Strasbourg on 16 and 17 January 2014. This was an interactive event, where participants were able to share their experiences and success stories, as well as to express and discuss on their concerns. Over 2,000 social entrepreneurs and supporters of social enterprise, representing the rich diversity of the social and solidarity economy, affirmed the view that

The participation to the Academy allows for access to a **distance-learning training package** designed around five modules on SSE. The **first introductory module** will be available for free to all the people interested in the topics of the Academy.

The Academy will be offered in **English, Spanish and Portuguese**.

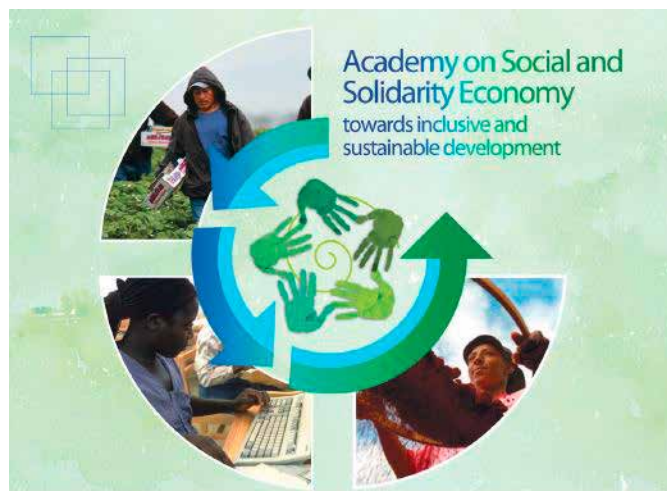
The cost of the training is Eur 1,500 (including meeting package, training materials and insurance). Board and lodging, as well as travel costs, are NOT included.

A limited number of partial fellowships is available, covering up to 1,000Eur.

>> For more information about the Academy, please visit: <http://socialeconomy.itcilo.org>

>> To register please complete the on-line form: <http://intranetp.itcilo.org/STF/A956065/en>

>> For major information or any query, please contact: socialeconomy@itcilo.org



social enterprises must play a bigger role in the future of Europe and identified new ideas and actions to unlock their potential for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. To conclude the two-day event, the "Strasbourg Declaration" summarising the outcome of the discussions was adopted.

>> To read the Strasbourg Declaration, see: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/conferences/2014/0116-social-entrepreneurs/docs/strasbourg-declaration_en.pdf

Accelerating progress on the MDGs in Tanzania through the cooperative approach



Endorsed by the United Nations Development Group, the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) is a methodological framework offering governments and their partners a systematic way to identify and prioritize bottlenecks to progress on Millennium Development Goals that are off track, as well as 'acceleration' solutions to these bottlenecks. The ILO made a commitment to work on the MAF in three African countries: Niger, Ghana and Tanzania.

Despite continuous efforts, progress toward achieving MDGs, in particular MDG 1 on eradicating poverty, has remained slow in Tanzania. The specific challenges relate to the formidable situation in rural areas: poor state of physical infrastructure, high incidence of income poverty, limited training opportunities, inability to attract and retain skilled personnel and lack of access to rural finance services.

In view of scaling up the achievement of MDGs by 2015, the United Nations Country Team, in collaboration with the World Bank Country office, have identified the following potential areas for action under MAF:

- a. Scaling up conditional cash transfer programmes coupled with nutrition interventions to better reach the poor and vulnerable;
- b. Reinforcing the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to strengthen food distribution programmes for households vulnerable to food insecurity; and
- c. Increasing income and livelihood opportunities for the poor, so as to help improve their economic status, enhance their resilience and allow them to make a permanent exit from poverty.

The ILO has decided to specifically address the livelihood component through a project programme aiming to strengthen the capacity of young women and men in enterprises to access business development services, inputs and markets. A particular focus will be placed on the cooperative form of enterprise. To this end, as part of this new initiative, technical support will be provided for and through cooperative enterprises.

This programme will work towards:

- Capacity building of farmers and vulnerable groups (youth and women in particular) through cooperative and entrepreneurship development;
- Capacity building of key national institutions to undertake data collection on labour/cooperative issues; and
- Supporting formalization of informal enterprises through improvement of labour law compliance.

The ILO technical support is built on experience from past and on-going work related to cooperatives and young women and men through ILO's programmes such as the Cooperative Facility for Africa (COOP^{AFRICA}), the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) or through initiatives under the UN framework e.g. United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP). The programme will be implemented by the ILO's Country Office for East Africa based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, while the Cooperatives Unit will provide technical backstopping.



>> To read more about the MDG Acceleration Framework, see http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/acceleration_framework/

KMDC's visit to ILO COOP

On April 2, 2014 ILO COOP welcomed a group of visitors from Small & Medium Business Administration, Korea Micro Enterprise & Market Development Corporation, and the Korea Small Business Institute. The representing organizations are affiliated with the Small & Medium Business Administration, which is a central administrative agency of the Korean government. This agency was formed for the establishment and development of cooperatives focusing on small business and traditional market development.

The visit served as an opportunity for the ILO and the Korean partners to introduce their organizations, share their experiences in past and current projects, and seek possible collaboration opportunities. Ms Jihea Khil of the ILO COOP Unit gave a presentation on the Unit's history, projects, publications, and partnerships. This was followed by an

introduction by Mr. Kim Soon-Tae from Small & Medium Business Administration. Their projects support small business cooperatives or aspiring cooperatives, with government support funds, consulting, and training.

The organization has helped establish 3,500 new cooperatives after the passing of the new cooperative legislation in late 2012. With this success, they have created a toolkit for small and medium enterprises to increase job opportunities and maintain financial sustainability of the cooperatives. Training sessions are held in line with the toolkits to provide deeper understanding of cooperative business model. Discussion concerning further collaboration between ILO COOP and the Korean Small & Medium Business Administration on the areas of research and training tool development for Korean cooperatives will be continued.



ICMIF CEO visits the ILO

On March 25, Chief Executive of the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), Shaun Tarbuck, visited the ILO to discuss shared interests and the potential collaboration of the two organizations. ICMIF is an international organization based in Cheshire, UK, with a mission to contribute to the growth of the cooperative and mutual insurance market through promoting mutuality, providing high value-added services to members and creating new business opportunities.

In a meeting with the ILO DG Mr Ryder, Mr. Tarbuck brought up the impact that the changes in the global financial regulatory arena are having on financial cooperatives and mutual enterprises. This meeting was followed by a meeting with ILO COOP, in which Mr. Tarbuck shared highlights of ICMIF initiatives, and the alignment of ICMIF's mission and work with ILO COOP's strategic outlook and ongoing work. The meeting addressed various topics, such as, resilience, sustainable development goals, advocacy, cooperative sta-

tistics, training for financial cooperatives, and research. Mr. Tarbuck emphasized the importance of resilience in relation to climate change, and shared an example of how micro-insurance provided through mutual enterprises influenced and brought hope to communities in the Philippines after the Typhoon Haiyan.

ILO COOP and ICMIF have agreed upon further engaging on common areas of interest for a joint workplan.



>> Visit ICMIF's website at <http://www.icmif.org/>

History column: The Correspondence Committee of Co-operation

The ILO Correspondence Committee of Co-operation was established in 1923 during the 17th session of the ILO Governing Body. The Committee was composed of experts appointed by most relevant and qualified cooperatives with respect to the Committee's functions. The establishment of the Committee provided important support for the cooperative movement within the ILO, both in theoretical and practical terms. It also allowed the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) to be informed about the agenda of the International Labour Conference.

The Correspondence Committee became the International Committee on Inter-cooperative Relations in 1931. The creation of the International Committee on Inter-cooperative Relations was the result of actions taken by the ILO Director Albert Thomas during the 11th International Cooperative Congress in Ghent, Belgium, in 1924 where the major discussion on inter-cooperative relations took place and from the joint initiative of the ICA and the International Confederation of Agriculture as a sequel

to a resolution adopted by the International Economic Conference in 1927.

Albert Thomas turned this Committee into an instrument through which engagements between ILO and the cooperative movement were strengthened. Its twofold purpose was to promote the development of moral and economic relations between the consumers' and the agricultural cooperative organisations, and to act as a liaison body between the cooperative movement as a whole and the official international institution. Its Chairman was the Director of the ILO, and its secretariat was provided by the then Cooperative Service, now Unit, of the ILO.

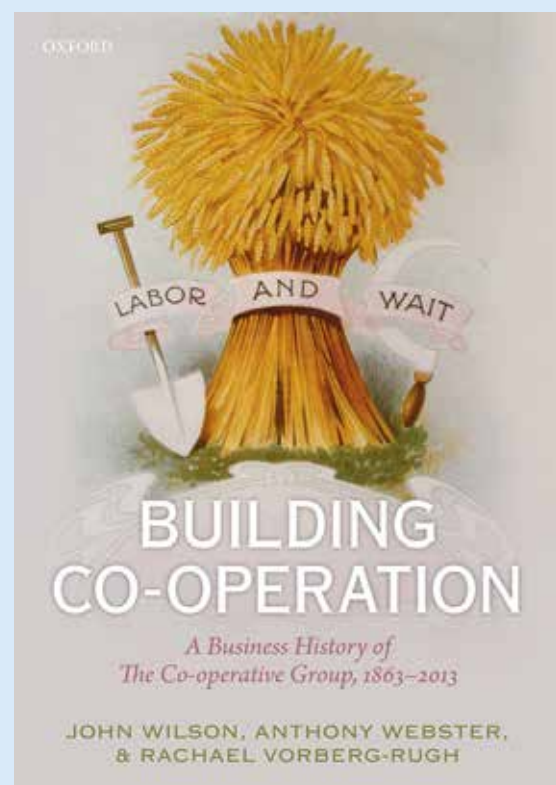
The creation of the Correspondence Committee and its functioning was characterized by the diversity, unity and continuity of action that Albert Thomas deployed, not only in the ILO but also within the French and international cooperative movement at large. A strong link with the cooperative movement was thus established. The Committee was disbanded in 1938.

Recent books on cooperative history

For all the People: Uncovering the Hidden History of Cooperation, Cooperative Movements, and Communalism in America (PM Press, 2nd Edition, 2012), by John Curl, documents the struggle of the American working people for social justice, examining the country's cooperative movements for social change – farmer, union, consumer, and communalist cooperatives that have for the most part been erased from collective memory. From early cooperation of Native Americans to modern-day food system movement, the book carefully tracks each important step in the US cooperative history which has remained largely ignored by most historical accounts. This second edition has a new introduction by Ishmael Reed, and a new preface by the author that discusses cooperatives in the Great Recession of 2008 and their future in the 21st century as well as a new chapter on the role coops played in the food revolution of the 1970s.

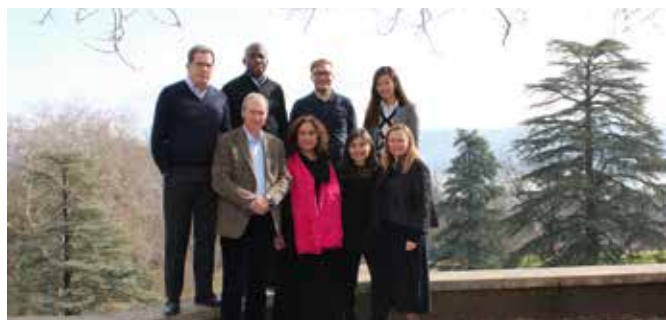
Reform of the governance of the Co-operative Group of the United Kingdom has been on the news in the past six months. The book by John Wilson, Anthony Webster and Rachael Vorberg-Rugh, **Building Co-operation: A Business History of the Co-operative Group, 1863-2013** (Oxford University Press, 2013) offers a timely look at the history of the Co-operative Group, from the rise of the cooperative thought in the UK with the Rochdale Pioneers all the way to the eve of the current crisis, emphasising the cooperative model and the role of the Co-operative Group in particular in re-invigorating the British cooperative sector and bringing new attention to the important role of cooperative and mutual enterprises worldwide. This is a book that is well-worth reading for those interested to

find out about the evolution of a resilient and transformative organizational form over its 150-year history all the way to its current era of organizational innovation.



ILO COOP Staff Retreat

The ILO COOP staff retreat was held at the Domaine du Château de Penthes, in Geneva on 26-27 February 2014. This retreat was centred on a team building exercise, by using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Instrument (MBTI). During the two days of the retreat, the ILO COOP Staff members learned more about each individual's types of working. In addition, work plan, research, fundraising, and communications strategies were presented and discussed. The retreat provided an opportunity for team building, and moving forward the work of the ILO on cooperatives in a strategic manner.



COOP Staff News

Ms Valentina Verze, of the Italian programme "Master dei Talenti Neolaureati," completed her four month internship with the Cooperatives Unit in March, and is continuing her work in ILO-ITC in Turin for the following four months. Valentina supported the organization on the activities related to Social and Solidarity Economy, particularly the preparation and planning of the 4th SSE Academy in Campinas, Brazil in July 2014.

Ms Jihea Khil started her three and a half month internship with the Cooperatives Unit on February 3rd, 2014. She is contributing to a series of publications on the *Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals*, revamping the Unit's website, and assisting in communications with Korean government partners. She will be finishing her degree at Cornell University in May, 2014.

Noteworthy resources

Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Debate (A Brief). In order to bring cooperative voices into the discussion around the post-2015 development agenda, the ILO and the International Co-operative Alliance have published a brief summarizing the main findings with a forthcoming report of the same title, by Frederick O. Wanyama of Maseno University in Kenya. The brief is available at the ILO COOP website, http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_240640/lang--en/index.htm.



The ILO publication "**Resilience in a downturn: The power of financial cooperatives**" by Johnston Birchall is now available in English, French, Spanish and Korean, and can be accessed at http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_207768/lang--en/index.htm

Last May, ILO COOP joined forces with the ILO's Bureau of Workers' Activities ACTRAV to hold a seminar "Trade unions and worker cooperatives: Where are we at?". The goal was to re-examine the relationship between the two movements

by taking stock of recent initiatives around the world. As a result of this effort, the latest issue of the **International Journal of Labour Research** includes articles based on the presentations at the conference. The Journal is available for download in English, French and Spanish at http://www.ilo.org/actrav/what/pubs/international-journal-labour-research/WCMS_240534/lang--en/index.htm.

Generazioni Legacoop Emilia-Romagna has published a paper "**Italian Social Cooperatives and Trade Unions in the Crisis Era: Point of view from the actors involved and viable amelioration in their relationship**". This can be accessed at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---actrav/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_234159.pdf. For more information on the Generazioni Legacoop Emilia-Romagna, visit <http://generazioni.coop>.

Johnston Birchall's latest study "**The governance of large co-operative businesses. A research study for Co-operatives UK**" is now available at the Co-operatives UK website at http://www.uk.coop/sites/storage/public/downloads/the_governance_of_large_cooperatives_0.pdf

"**Can coops compete?**" asks Andrew Bibby in a series in The Guardian. To get his view on the issue from various perspectives, visit <http://www.theguardian.com/profile/andrew-bibby>.

The 2014 EU Parliament elections will be held between the 22nd and 25th of May, and for the occasion Cooperatives Europe has released its **cooperative manifesto** to promote their policy priorities for the coming years. Read and download the manifesto in Cooperatives Europe website at <https://coopseurope.coop/about-cooperatives/2014-eu-parliament-elections>.

Upcoming events

May

- 7-9. INAISE AGM and Conference, Bochum, Germany. <http://www.inaise.org/>
- 15-17. EXPOCOOP Trade Fair for Co-operative Businesses, Curitiba, Brazil. <http://www.expocoop.com/>
- 26-29. Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation Annual Conference. Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. See <http://www.coopresearch.coop/conferences/2014-conference/>.

June

- 25-28. ICA Research Conference 2014, Pula, Croatia. To register, go to <http://www.ica2014.coop/>.

July

5. International Day of Cooperatives. The theme for 2014 is "Cooperative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all" <http://www.thenews.coop/73154/news/co-operatives/international-co-operative-day-will-focus-sustainability/>
- 28-Aug 1. Social and Solidarity Economy Academy, Campinas, Brazil. <http://socialeconomy.itcilo.org/>

August

- 5-21. Course on Cooperative Enterprise Law, Coop Network Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland. For details and registration, see <http://www.helsinkisummerschool.fi/home/courses>

September

2. Cooperatives and Sustainable Development Goals: A Focus on Africa. FES, ILO and DGRV, Berlin, Germany.
- 16-20. ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 8th Cooperative Forum, Bali, Indonesia.

October

- 6-9. International Summit of Cooperatives, Quebec, Canada. For information and registration, visit http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en_CA/sites/somint/home.html



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