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Editorial

A series of remarkable events mark the period between May and October 2015 covered in this issue of ILO COOP News Update. The ILO DG and the Alliance president renewed their commitment to cooperatives and decent work through a new partnership agreement that aims to contribute to sustainable development by promoting the role of cooperative enterprises in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

During the 2015 International Labour Conference, at least three of the committees held discussions that extensively referenced cooperatives. As a result, Recommendation 204 adopted by the Standard Setting Committee on Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy, the Resolution and Conclusions adopted by the Committee on SMEs and Employment Creation and the General Survey concerning the right of association and rural workers' organizations instruments all include strategic references to cooperatives.

In early July, the ILO DG made a powerful statement on the occasion of the International Cooperative Day (IDC) emphasizing the real and potential role of cooperatives in promoting equality. On the occasion of this IDC, the ILO and the Alliance launched a joint report on how cooperatives fare on gender equality.

ILO also took part in a range of cooperative and social and solidarity economy events where women's economic empowerment and gender equality were key themes: one in Barcelona organized by the UfM and MedEss and the other in occupied Palestinian territory organized by the Alliance Asia Pacific region. This period witnessed ILO engagement in other important events. For instance, ILO, the Alliance and CSEND co-organized a side event at the WTO annual meeting on cooperative to cooperative trade and made a joint statement during the Closing Plenary Session.

ILO also had the opportunity to host Mr Zhang Wangshu from China Co-op as a speaker at its Enterprise Encounters series co-organized by its Employers'Activities Department and Enterprises Department. A social and solidarity finance conference was also convened at the ILO and co-organized with UNRISD. After carrying on the responsibilities of the secretariat for the UN Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy for one year, the secretariat was transferred to the FAO office in Geneva.

In this issue of ILO COOP News Update, ILO's engagement in a range of projects and activities on cooperatives ranging from Manila and Abuja to Gaza Strip and Lima are highlighted. The coop champion featured is Edmund Moshy from ILO Dar es Salaam Office as he reflects on his work on cooperative development in the context of UNDP.

As is the case in other issues, this issue the ILO COOP News Update provides insights into on-going work (e.g. care provision through cooperatives, and statistics on cooperatives) including recent reports from the ILO on cooperatives (e.g. The Story of the ILO's Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation) and updated issue briefs (e.g. cooperatives and youth, and cooperatives and people living with disabilities).

In addition to noteworthy resources and COOP staff news, the calendar of upcoming events relevant to cooperatives and social and solidarity economy are also highlighted. The most important of these is the research conference on cooperatives and world of work that is jointly organized by the ILO and the Alliance Committee on Cooperative Research. We look forward to sharing with you the results of that event in our next issue.



ILO and the Alliance step up collaboration to promote cooperatives and decent work

On 30th of June 2015, the ILO and the International Co-operative Alliance (Alliance) have signed a partnership agreement that marks the beginning of a new and more intense phase of collaboration between the two organizations.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to contribute to sustainable development by promoting the role of cooperative enterprises in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. It is a revised and updated version of an earlier agreement that was signed in 2004 under the framework of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder welcomed the new MoU by saying that *“the new agreement with the International Co-operative Alliance is a forward-looking exercise fully consistent with the ILO’s 2016-17 priorities recently adopted by our annual International Labour Conference, as well as the Alliance’s Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade. It will allow us to tap into the full potential of cooperatives around the world as we continue to work towards a sustainable future with decent work for all”*.

Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance, stated: *“The Alliance is proud to step up its collaboration with the International Labour Organization. Cooperatives promote decent work and labour standards because of the democratic checks and balances existing inside them. Decent work is the cornerstone of sustainable development, and cooperatives – providing over 250 million jobs worldwide – have proven that they can create and sustain quality employment even in times of crisis. Cooperatives also play an important role in helping small informal economy producers transition towards the formal economy. Cooperatives are an indispensable asset for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals because they offer an alternative model of enterprise, one that works towards a ‘triple bottom line’ of social, economic and environmental sustainability.”*

When they first met in December 2012 in Brussels, Alliance President Dame Pauline Green and ILO Director-General Guy Ryder agreed to promote the contribution of cooperatives to decent work and other sustainable development goals, to highlight their resilience to economic crisis and their contribution to women’s equality, and to improve statistics on cooperatives, among other issues.

Since that meeting the two institutions have worked closely on these and other issues through bilateral and multilateral platforms such as the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) and the UN Interagency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy.

The joint research and policy dialogue initiatives launched by the ILO and the Alliance over the last two-and-a half years since the two leaders met are starting to bear fruit. The Declaration adopted at the International Summit of Cooperatives in October 2014 includes a commitment on decent work. A two-day research conference on cooperatives and decent work, is taking place before the Alliance’s bi-annual global conference in November 2015 in Antalya, Turkey, as a collaborative effort between the Alliance’s Cooperative Research Committee and the ILO.

In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, the partnership will build on relevant international labour standards, including the ILO’s Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193) and the new ILO Recommendation on the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy, 2015 (No. 204).

>> For more information, visit http://www.ilo.org/pardev/news/WCMS_377052/lang--en/index.htm

International Labour Conference 2015

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization adopted Recommendation No. 204, promoting the transition from informal to formal economies worldwide, on June 12, 2015 at the 104th Session of the International Labour Conference.

The International Co-operative Alliance (Alliance) was represented in the Committee by Bruno Roelants, the Secretary General of the International organisation of Industrial Artisanal and Service Producers’ Cooperatives (CICOPA). In his intervention at the session, Mr Roelants emphasise that cooperative enterprises are providing a socio-economic voice and representation to ordinary citizens, economies of scale, a wide array of enterprise support services (training and education, financing, advisory services etc.), and gradual administrative formalization.



During the ILC, Mr Roelants also provided the perspective from the cooperative movement on the role of cooperatives on SME development and employment generation at the Committee on SMEs and Employment Creation. In its outcome documents, the Committee reaffirmed the role of cooperatives in achieving scale and a better position in global supply chains for producers, as well as mobilizing savings and enhancing social security coverage for them. Also at the ILC, the Committee on the Application of Standards on Rural Workers included reference to cooperatives in its discussion and the report “General Survey concerning the right of association and rural workers’ organizations instruments”. During the ILC, meetings between cooperatives, SSE organizations, workers organizations and other membership based organization were held to discuss issues around formalization of informal economy enterprises through cooperatives.

Committee on Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy

- >> Summary of the Proceedings: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_375370.pdf
- >> Text of the Recommendation: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_375341.pdf
- >> Statement from Bruno Roelants, Secretary General of CICOPA at the Committee on Transitioning from the Informal Economy: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/statement/wcms_373648.pdf
- >> For video of interview with Bruno Roelants on informal economy and cooperatives
Video 1 – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpoDfg-ZJ7A>

- Video 2 – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoKj2pwAkp8>
- Video 3 – <https://youtu.be/k1Gcr7yNbnw>
- Video 4 – <https://youtu.be/bb2i6rPYIRI>

Committee on SMEs

- >> Proceedings: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_375354.pdf
- >> Resolution and Conclusions: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_375347.pdf

Committee on the Application of Standards

- >> Full text of the General Survey concerning the right of association and rural workers' organizations instruments: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_343023.pdf

Message by ILO Director-General Guy Ryder on the occasion of the International Day of Cooperatives July 4, 2015



I am pleased to join the international community in celebrating the International Day of Cooperatives which this year focuses on the theme “Choose cooperatives, choose equality”.

As people-centered, principle driven, member owned businesses cooperatives have a long tradition of promoting equality. Their values of “equality and equity” are translated into members’ equal voting rights and access to the products and services of the cooperative,

as well as to an equitable distribution of surpluses. In addition to creating a viable enterprise model that generates productivity and income, cooperatives are well placed to help tackle social inequalities, discrimination and exclusion based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and differential abilities.

Not surprisingly, cooperatives have also proved to be effective vehicles for realizing decent work for all. This role of cooperatives has long been recognized in the almost 100 years of ILO history. It is reflected in Recommendation No 193 of 2002 on the promotion of cooperatives. The Recommendation on the transition from the informal to the formal economy adopted by the ILO’s International Labour Conference in June 2015 calls on member States to promote cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy units in integrated policy frameworks to facilitate this transition.

In the rural and informal economies we have seen first-hand how women, youth and indigenous peoples are increasing their income and their standard of living by using the cooperative way of working: from a California-based initiative in which marginalized women workers run worker-owned green businesses, to a furniture making cooperative that employs people with disabilities in the Philippines to a Tanzanian cooperative that supports educational expenses of orphans

and vulnerable children with significant revenues generated from the sales of their products.

Worker cooperatives and multi-stakeholder cooperatives are rapidly increasing and have provided the means for workers in companies that are going bankrupt, unemployed youth, and laid off public workers to enjoy the prospect of a better future.

In low income communities, cooperatives of housing, tourism and renewable energy can help to achieve an equitable distribution of economic returns. The ILO is examining how cooperative arrangements for the provision of care services can improve the well-being of care workers, care beneficiaries and the community at large. And, as the world of work evolves, the cooperative model can be used to bring technological, social and organizational innovation through pooling of people, knowledge, technology and resources helping to bridge the gaps that perpetuate economic and social inequality.

The ILO looks forward to working more closely with cooperative enterprises to promote cooperative ideals and to expand access to opportunities for decent work, an objective reflected in the renewed partnership agreement signed on 30 June 2015 by the ILO and the Alliance and by joint work such as a recent ILO/Alliance survey on cooperatives and gender equality .

As the international community moves toward the adoption of the post 2015 global development framework, let us ensure that cooperatives find their place in effective strategies to promote social justice and decent work for all.

>> The full message of the ILO DG is available at http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/who-we-are/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_379770/lang-en/index.htm

>> ILO-Alliance joint report “Advancing gender equality: The co-operative way” is available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_379095.pdf

>> Event report on International Day of Cooperative in New York is available at: http://www.ilo.org/newyork/news/WCMS_249728/lang-en/index.htm

Highlights of equality related news

ILO PARTICIPATION AT THE UfM CONFERENCE “FOSTERING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC LIFE”, BARCELONA, SPAIN

The second international conference on Women’s Participation in Economic Life organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Barcelona took place on 19-21 May, 2015. 250 participants from policy makers to representatives from international organizations, private sector and civil society discussed a way forward to women’s empowerment in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The iesMed cooperative, co-founder of the MedESS initiative to promote social and solidarity economy (SSE) in the Mediterranean Region, coordinated a workshop on SSE. Simel Esim, Head of the ILO’s Cooperatives Unit, presented the ILO’s experience on the subject in the Mediterranean region and beyond.

The workshop “SSE as a Promising Sector for Women” highlighted the key role of SSE in creating decent work, especially in the context of economic crisis. It also put forward the strong presence of women in SSE organizations and enterprises, and showed how SSE can help women’s emancipation and political empowerment. Different levers to promote SSE and strengthen its contribution for women were identified:

- Collecting and processing data, both qualitatively and quantitatively, to reach better understanding of the position of women in SSE;
- Advancing the leadership of women in SSE, and the need for the sector to have more women leaders and spokespersons;
- Helping the secondary level clusters and organizations of SSE initiatives, especially at the local level for negotiating with the local authorities; and
- Promoting skills development in SSEs, especially for women.

The workshop came up with a number of recommendations. First and foremost, the speakers and participants invited the UfM to develop a strategy to promote SSEs in the Mediterranean Region. They also called for the organization of a stand alone event focused on women and SSE, which would take place in 2016 in the Mediterranean region. Two topics need



to be discussed and developed beforehand: creating a Mediterranean observatory of SSE and promoting the connection between SSE networks like RIPESS or ESMED in the region.

>> To read summary report of the event, visit:

English: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Summary-Report-Final-EN.pdf>

French: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Summary-Report-Final-FR.pdf>

Arabic: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Summary-Report-Final-AR.pdf>

ESDC WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN COOPERATIVE BUSINESS 15-17 SEPTEMBER 2015, RAMALLAH, oPt

“ESDC workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business” organized by International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific and the Economic Social Development Centre of Palestine (ESDC) was held from 15-17 September, 2015 in the occupied Palestinian territory. The three-day workshop brought together about 100 representatives from governments, international organizations and the cooperative movement from Jordan, Kenya, Nigeria, the United States, the Philippines and Palestine.

Mounir Kleibo, the ILO Representative in Jerusalem, presented the ILO’s initiatives and program for Palestinian cooperative development. He also gave an overview of the current challenges in agricultural cooperatives. The presenta-



tion highlighted findings from the needs assessment for agricultural cooperative conducted in 2014 and challenges faced by women in cooperatives.

During the workshop, papers were presented by cooperatives from different sectors, and a study visit to Palestinian cooperatives was organized.

>> See articles on Palestinian women’s cooperatives from the ILO at http://www.ica-ap.coop/icanews_against-all-odds-%E2%80%93-women-cooperatives-palestine

>> See policy brief on “Findings of the Assessment of Agricultural Cooperatives in West Bank: Challenges and Opportunities” at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_249766.pdf

>> See publication on Palestinian cooperatives at <http://www.esdc-pal.org/index.php/publications-menu/publications-b>

COOPERATING OUT OF ISOLATION: STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S AGENCY THROUGH COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAZA STRIP

Over the past decade, the ILO has actively promoted gender equality at work, employment and development of the cooperative sector in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the West Bank. Transfer of experience to Gaza is now being accelerated through the ILO's Emergency Response to the Crisis in Gaza.

Women have been particularly affected by the conflict and continued blockade of the Gaza Strip. While the reconstruction following last year's devastating military operation is being delayed, 57 per cent of women in Gaza are unemployed (Palestinian Bureau of Central Statistics, 2014). For more than a decade, two economic sectors – services and agriculture – have consistently accounted for more than 90 per cent of women's employment (Gaza Detailed Needs Assessment, 2015). More than 2,000 women in Gaza are members of cooperatives, which have provided some economic opportunities, mainly in agriculture.

Efforts are focused on strengthening women's agency and the social and solidarity economy in collaboration with local NGOs. In May 2015, the ILO conducted My.COOP agricultural cooperative management training workshop for 20 women and men from agricultural cooperatives, local NGOs and cooperative extension workers from the Cooperative Department at the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture in Gaza.

"I was interested in participating in this training course because it offers new ideas related to cooperatives and cooperative work, which I didn't know before and which I need for my work within the Ministry of Agriculture and being part of a cooperative myself" said one of the participants.

The five-day training workshop targeted key institutions and initiatives in the Gaza Strip that work with agricultural cooperatives in order to understand the good practices in establishment and management of agricultural cooperatives.

"This training helped raise awareness among our target groups on the importance of cooperative work and helped encourage them to join cooperatives and promote the important role of cooperatives in economic and social development" Mirvat Hassuna, from the Lending and Saving Cooperative Association, concluded.



News from the field

PERUVIAN MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION CERTIFIES 34 COOPERATIVE TRAINING FACILITATORS THROUGH MY.COOP-PERU



An additional 92 cooperative members and 405 participants were trained through the agricultural cooperative management training package, My.Coop.

In an effort to build the managerial and executive capacity of agricultural cooperatives across Peru, the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) has certified facilitators of cooperative training using the My.Coop-Peru program. The 34 graduates received specialized training related to basic aspects of agricultural cooperatives, cooperative provision of services, supply of agricultural inputs and cooperative marketing, among other topics.

The certification ceremony was held on 21st April in the PRODUCE auditorium in Lima. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and Agriterra, partner institution of My.Coop, assisted the Ministry of Production in facilitating the event.

My.Coop is a partnership based management training package for agricultural cooperatives. The program aims to build managerial capacity and in turn allow cooperatives to deliver higher quality, more efficient and effective services, as well as create inclusive job opportunities and contribute to key development issues, such as food security and the sustainable use of natural resources.

My.Coop-Peru was introduced in 2012 as a component of PRODUCE's Capacity Building Program for the Management of Agricultural Cooperatives, and was adapted from the original My.Coop package to reflect the local context and needs.

Upon completing the program, the 34 facilitators are certified to train cooperative executives, directors, and members involved in management tasks. In addition to conducting training workshops for facilitators, another 92 cooperative members from across the country received training, and 405 participants, including managers and employees, attended workshops. Participants represented cooperatives from 11 regions across Peru.

Program promoters and sponsors include: Philippe Vanhuynegem, specialist in companies, cooperatives and rural development - International Labour Office (ILO); Clifford Brown, co-director of Alternative Development - USAID; Bas Prins specialist from Agriterra; Eutemio Alarcon Rios, manager of the Confederation of Cooperatives of Peru – CONFENACOOOP; Teonila War, manager of SOCODEVI; Farro Hector Ortiz, manager of the National Federation of Credit

Unions - FENACREP; Col. (r) José Manuel Suarez Qwistgaard, technical secretary of Huallaga Code - PCM; Gerardo León, of INGAL Peru - Ayacucho; Robin Coffee and Cocoa Cochachi Peru and Luis Vargas, representative of SOS FAIM in Peru.

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>> See My.COOP website at <http://moodle.itcilo.org/mycoop/>

>> See My.COOP guidance note at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/genericdocument/wcms_388430.pdf

SPOTLIGHT ON COOPERATION DURING THE CULMINATING EVENT “STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS: LIVELIHOOD AT THE FOREFRONT OF RECOVERY FOLLOWING HAIYAN”



The ILO's project “Emergency Employment and Livelihood Recovery for Super Typhoon Haiyan” organized one-day event “Strengthening Partnerships: Livelihood at the Forefront of Recovery following Haiyan” on 5th August, 2015 in Manila, Philippines. The objective of the event was to share lessons learned from the project and highlight the decent work practices in providing for the livelihoods support.

Panel discussions and presentations brought in representatives of government agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, development partners, international and local non-government organizations, academia, and those who worked on placing livelihood and social protection at the heart of disaster response.

In the session in “Lessons Across Borders: Learnings from Disaster Response in Japan and the Philippines”, Ms Yoko Tanaka, Executive Director of the Japan Workers' Cooperative Union presented workers' cooperatives experiences in reconstructing the disaster affected communities by launching new enterprises, conducting training for members and contributing to overall economic and social empowerment.

>> See more information on the event “Strengthening Partnerships: Livelihood at the Forefront of Recovery following Haiyan” visit at http://www.ilo.org/manila/eventsandmeetings/WCMS_396565/lang--en/index.htm

>> See more information on Japan Workers' Cooperative Union at <http://english.roukyou.gr.jp/>

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) TRAINING WORKSHOP ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, 18 -20 AUGUST 2015, ABUJA, NIGERIA

The Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional economic grouping with a total of fifteen member states. ECOWAS's main aim is to promote economic cooperation between the West African states with the goal of raising living standards among the population as well as increasing the economic strength of each member state. Facing an ever increasing challenge of youth unemployment, ECOWAS is implementing a number of programmes that are targeted at addressing this problem. To this end, the ECOWAS Commission organised a training workshop on “Promoting Youth Employment through Integrated Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) and Cooperatives Development”. The participants were drawn from youth organizations and government ministries representing youth in all the member states. The ILO was invited to make a presentation on “Cooperatives as potential sources of employment for youth organizations”. The presentation was made by Mr Dennis Zulu, the Director of the ILO Country Office in Abuja, Nigeria.

In his presentation, Mr Zulu explained what cooperatives were and elaborated on the comparative advantages that cooperatives hold over other types of business organisations in job creation. Through the citation of West African examples, he pointed out the opportunities and benefits that could accrue to young people in West Africa if they decided to form cooperatives as a means of furthering their employment and self-employment aspirations. He also emphasized the need for governments to provide a facilitative environment to support the growth of the cooperative movement in West Africa. Mr Zulu encouraged the participants to visit the ILO COOP website for more information on cooperatives (www.ilo.org/coop).

In a discussion that followed, the participants highlighted some of the challenges that cooperatives faced in their respective countries. These included:

- Absence of adequate information on cooperative formation and the benefits arising thereof;
- Continued perception that cooperatives were institutions set by governments for furthering their political interests;
- Inability of youth to form cooperatives due to lack of interest and knowledge;
- Lack of understanding of purpose amongst the cooperative members;
- Lack of government support for the cooperative movement;
- Lack of access to financing for cooperative development.

In concluding, the participants called upon the ILO and ECOWAS to provide support to their respective countries in promoting cooperatives as a mechanism for dealing with youth unemployment challenges in West Africa. They expressed their commitment towards playing a role in advocating for and lobbying their governments to providing an enabling environment for cooperative formation and development.

COOP Champions

COOP Champions features ILO colleagues from around the world working on cooperatives. It highlights their contributions towards promotion of cooperatives, and shares highlights on their experiences, current work, and future aspirations.

Mr. Edmund Moshy has over 14 years of national and international cooperative business and development experience. He has an MSc and Post Graduate Diploma in International Trade Policy and Trade Law offered by Trade Policy Training Center in Africa (Trapca) & Lund University of Sweden in the auspices of the Eastern and Central Africa Management Institute (ESAMI). He studied Business Administration in his undergraduate level.

Prior to joining the ILO, Edmund worked for Land O'Lakes International Development Division in three different US Government funded projects, with specialization in cooperative business development and financial management.

Currently Edmund works with the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP); as the National Programme Co-ordinator from the ILO, directing activities related to the development of sustainable enterprises, including cooperatives, and supporting national and local government as well as non-states actors to enhance skills and entrepreneurship programmes to enhance productivity and employment creation.

UNDAP is an integrated business plan for all the UN agencies and national partners. Outcome 2 (Local Government Authorities (LGAs), agriculture support organizations and small-holder farmers in increase agricultural productivity, access to markets and food security) and Outcome 3 (Relevant MDAs, LGAs and Non State Actors enhance structures and policies for promoting viable pro-poor business sectors and SMEs) are directly linked to the ILO's work on Sustainable Enterprises.

Edmund implements ILO interventions at all levels to ensure a holistic approach to addressing challenges faced by cooperatives and other enterprises. At the macro level he works with the national partners in creating enabling an environment for cooperatives to be established and grow. Towards this end, ILO's approach to cooperative development has focused on rebuilding the cooperative movement in Tanzania by: changing perceptions on the contribution of cooperatives to social and economic development ; supporting the development of policies and laws for cooperative development ; as well as providing assistance to strengthen primary cooperatives and other forms of self-help groups so that they can serve their members better, especially small-holder farmers.

Edmund works with women and men small scale farmers to increase their capacity to get out of poverty using the potential of cooperatives. The underlying theory of change is that, through cooperatives, some important policy goals can be better achieved, such as creating jobs and generating income, preventing and reducing poverty in general, providing social protection and giving people a voice in society through social dialogue. He also coordinates and implements activities to promote cooperatives in other projects like the

Millennium Goal Acceleration Framework (MAF) which supports small scale farmers and traders to organize into cooperatives to achieve economies of scale and enable them to access services and inputs along with provision of affordable and quality services to their members. Over 25 previously informal groups were assisted to formalize and establish financial cooperatives under the project. They were later on linked with



a revolving fund under the "Economic Empowerment and HIV Vulnerability Reduction along Transport Corridors Southern Africa" project. This enabled access to financial services by over 800 people (133 men and 685 women) for applying the business development and management skills they developed in the process.

Besides helping establish and strengthen existing cooperatives, ILO in collaboration with Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission and the Moshi Cooperative University is facilitating and coordinating collectivization of 20+ primary dairy coops in Kilimanjaro into a joint secondary enterprise around a common processing and packaging facility. This will bring together 3,000 farmer/producer members to jointly collect process and market their produce. It will allow access to cheaper inputs and improve their bargaining power for better prices and incomes and other services.

Edmund pioneered an activity in which ILO collaborated with Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) to design and deliver strategic interventions aiming at promoting cooperative development among youth. This initiative aims to provide solutions to youth employment challenges by capitalizing on the dividends that cooperative enterprises have in reduction of poverty. The strategy targets local government authorities; specifically officials responsible for cooperative, youth and community development, cooperative advisors and officers, youth officers, community development as well as youth and youth support organizations. The intervention aimed at building the capacity to promote cooperatives enterprise development among youth and build a cadre of cooperative support service providers who will provide cooperative business development services conveniently, reliably, sustainably and at relatively lower cost.

The cooperative development approach is now well recognized and appreciated in the UN System in Tanzania specifically in the context of the joint programme and delivering results together. The cooperative development activities have moved to command a sizable part of these programme in addressing the productivity and employment challenge in Tanzania.

Legal and regulatory environment remains a challenge for cooperative development especially for youth. This calls for interventions to bring about an enabling environment for youth cooperative development, including evidence based

research and data to inform policy making. Cooperative education is still lacking, calling for interventions to build awareness on the potentials of cooperative as well as mainstreaming of co-operatives in the school and college curriculums. More co-ordination and wider participation of different stakeholders

and partners is required. All these confirm that there is more work and opportunities for cooperative development. We wish to congratulate Edmund in this commitment to cooperative solutions and wish him all the best in his continued effort.

Role of cooperatives in rural development of China - An interview with China Co-op 2, July 2015

As a part of a new series of Enterprise Encounters whereby companies are invited to talk about key elements and challenges of managing a global workforce and other subjects relevant to the ILO's work and sustainable development, Mr Zhang Wangshu, Director for the International Department of China Coop presented on critical role of cooperatives play in rural development in China.

China Co-op is one of the largest cooperatives in the world with an aggregate turnover of USD 606 billion in 2014. It is a leading producer and trader of agricultural inputs, cotton, tea, grains and horticultural products and a significant retailer (8 per cent market share) in China.

In his presentation, Mr Zhang Wangshu highlighted how China CO-OP facilitates cooperative education for young generation and nurtures cooperative spirit as well as technical knowledge of farming. He stressed that currently many graduates are trained in its training centre and are becoming cooperative leaders.

>> See full interview with Mr Zhang Wangshu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBzhpUZTf#t=12>

>> See China Co-op website <http://www.chinacoop.coop/en/>



ILO, Alliance and CSEND Side event at the fifth Global review of aid for trade “Promoting Cooperative-to-cooperative trade for sustainable development” on 1 July, 2015

On 1st of July, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Co-operative Alliance (Alliance) and the Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND) co-organized “Promoting Cooperative-to-cooperative trade for sustainable development”, a side event at the fifth global review of aid for trade.



The event brought 30 people from governments, international organizations, cooperative movement and researchers.

The panel discussion started with a theoretical presentation of the links between cooperatives and trade. In the session, the case of China on promoting cooperative-to-cooperative trade in Asia was presented by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC). Fair trade experiences were presented to showcase engagement in ethical trade practices using cooperative principles and highlighting the advantages of agricultural and consumer cooperatives working together across the value chain from a perspective of fairness and competitiveness.

>> See programme of the event https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review15prog_e/prog-sideevents21.pdf

>> See joint statement made by the ILO, on behalf of the CSEND-ILO-Alliance group during the Closing Plenary Session of the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade: “Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth” http://www.csend.org/images/articles/files/8_CSEND-ILO-ICA_group_statement_at_Global_Review_Closing_Plenary_WEB_Version3.pdf

Social and Solidarity Finance conference and the following UN inter-agency taskforce on Social and Solidarity Economy

From May 11 to 12, 2015, a workshop on social and solidarity finance was held in the Room VII of ILO Building (The title of the workshop was “Social and Solidarity Finance: Tensions, Opportunities and Transformative Potential”). This UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development) workshop was undertaken in collaboration with the ILO.

The workshop consisted of three sections: The first section was about the concept of social and solidarity finance. The second was on its role in supporting social and solidarity economy (SSE). The last one was on how to strengthen the transformative potential of social and solidarity finance. With this event, most participants recognized that social and solidarity finance has the potential to play a key role in promoting social and solidarity economy in response to the limited access of regular financial sources through commercial financial organizations.

Following this workshop, a UN Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE was held where the role of social and solidarity finance for developing SSE was on the agenda. The taskforce agreed that it will “work to ensure access to formal financial services for all” and emphasized the need to formulate the national financial strategies in consultation with the main stakeholders to ensure inclusion.

The taskforce also clearly stated, in a statement that it adopted, it will support microfinance institutions, development banks, agricultural banks, mobile network operators, payment platforms, agent networks, cooperatives, postal bank and savings bank. The statement noted that use of new and innovative tools is encouraged to promote inclusion. The potentials of crowd-funding, ethical banks and financial cooperatives, as a form of social and solidarity finance were also recognized in the statement.

An explicit commitment has been agreed upon to increase resources for capacity development and expand peer learning and experience sharing among countries and regions.

>> For more information on the workshop “Social and Solidarity Finance: Tensions, Opportunities and Transformative Potential”, [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BD6AB/\(httpEvents\)/AD711D8BF95611D7C1257E2000401DB7?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BD6AB/(httpEvents)/AD711D8BF95611D7C1257E2000401DB7?OpenDocument)

>> For more information on the UN Task Force for Social and Solidarity Economy [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/projects.nsf/\(httpProjects\)/4E0A25FB1D874CB1C-1257C45004E1952?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/projects.nsf/(httpProjects)/4E0A25FB1D874CB1C-1257C45004E1952?OpenDocument)

3rd World Forum on Local Economic Development



The 3rd World Forum on Local Economic Development took place from 13 to 16 October 2015 in Turin (Italy). This event was organized by the city of Turin, the global network of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and its Committee on Local Economic Development, the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the Organization of United Regions (ORU FOGAR), the Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Local Economic Development (LED) was understood as a participatory, strategically planned, partnership approach between local private and public stakeholders to enable employment growth, poverty reduction and quality of life gains through improved local economic governance.

The main objective of the forum was to promote creative discussions on how new policies should be created in order to better respond to the key challenges that are presented in the SDGs and the related post-2015 agenda. ILO COOP was represented at the forum to highlight the contributions brought by cooperative enterprises and other Social and Solidarity Economy entities on different topics, in ranging from migration to employment generation.

2015 is not only the target year for the MDGs but also when the development framework agenda for the next 15 years will be launched. Since the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September, the third forum aims to explore how LED approach could be a way to implement the new development agenda at the local level through inclusive growth.

Three main thematic areas were discussed during the workshop:

- Regional competitiveness and innovation for more sustainable and inclusive development;
- Localizing employment generation towards local inclusive growth and jobs; and
- Towards sustainable urbanization. LED strategies for creating positive urban rural linkages.

The results of the Forum were to:

- Advance the global dialogue on LED;
- Identify good practices of successful LED-based public policies;
- Establish a system for sharing experiences and information on LED;
- Raise awareness among governments in order to facilitate the adoption of policies that support LED; and
- Build partnerships for a greater impact on the global agenda.

>> For more information: <http://www.ledforumtorino2015.org/>

Cooperative Statistics Update

At the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) held in Geneva in October 2013, governments, workers' and employers' organization representatives adopted a Resolution which recommends that the Office, in cooperation with the ILO's constituents and interested national statistical offices carry out further developmental work on the measurement of cooperatives through administrative registers, establishment or household surveys.

In order to follow upon this recommendation, the ILO Department of Statistics and the Cooperatives Unit set up a joint initiative. As a starting point for this initiative, a global mapping effort has been launched in June 2015 to develop an "inventory" of existing data collection system on cooperatives by national statistics offices and other providers. This mapping exercise will be implemented mainly through secondary resources (e.g., document analysis, on-line data search) and the result will be analysed by the end of November.

In the meantime, cooperation with international organizations or national agencies is being developed to as a part of this initiative. FAO and ILO agreed to complement and supplement each other's work and continue enhanced collaboration in identifying and improving data gaps regarding cooperative statistics. ILO has shared the methodology that is being applied in the global mapping exercise with the FAO will conduct country case studies on Viet Nam and Ethiopia which using a similar methodology. Regarding country-level cooperation, several countries (e.g., South Korea, Turkey, Tanzania, and Iran) expressed interest in sharing details of their experiences on statistics on cooperatives. South Korea is conducting a survey on cooperative every two years. In 2013, they conducted the first survey. From June to July of this year, Ministry of Strategy and Finance of South Korea conducted the second survey, which is expected to be analysed by the end of 2015. The Centre for Strategical Statistics and Information at the Iranian Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare

(MoCLSW) has produced its first report of Satellite Accounts for Cooperatives in the country in September 2015. Based on an adaptation of the "Manual for Drawing up Satellite Accounts of Companies in the Social Economy: Cooperatives and Mutual Societies", the initiative took two years in preparation. The MoCLSW officials agreed to take part in the ILO initiative on cooperative statistics and to share their experiences with other countries. With regards to Turkey, three meetings of the Working Group on Cooperative Statistics have taken place already. It was decided that cooperative statistics would be included in the Official Statistics framework of TURKSTAT starting in 2016. On their visit to ILO on October 2, delegates from Ministry of Customs and Trade Cooperatives General Directorate voiced interest in conducting the cooperative statistic initiative as part of a MOU between their ministry and the ILO, and offering their contribution by sending a secondment to the ILO. In Tanzania, efforts to improve national statistics on cooperatives took another step forward with the development of the Cooperative Data Analysis System. With support of the ILO, this initiative has been carried out in different regions by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives through the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission. Following the example of ILO's technical assistance in Turkey, it has been decided to promote the formation of a working group that will include various stakeholders and in particular the National Bureau of Statistics.

>> See the Resolution on statistics on cooperatives http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_222036/lang--en/index.htm.

>> See Turkish Statistical Office (TurkStat) website <http://www.officialstatistics.gov.tr/?q=en/node/118>

>> See Iranian MoCLSW website on statistics <http://www.amarkar.ir>

Care through Coop - Interview with Dr José Carlos Guisado, the president of the International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO)

Across the world health cooperatives provide services to more than 81 million people. Dr José Carlos Guisado is the president of IHCO, a sectoral body of the International Co-operative Alliance. He is leading a session on the future of health cooperatives at the International Co-operative Alliance's Global Conference in Antalya, Turkey, in November.

"In Antalya we are talking about cooperative identity and we feel that health cooperatives are a very good example. We are able to provide the services we do and make a difference because we are cooperatives," he says.

The role of cooperatives in healthcare is becoming increasingly important as the ageing population is expanding and public social services are tightening.

The ILO Cooperatives Unit (COOP) and the Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch (GED) have launched an initiative on the provision of care services through cooperatives. Preliminary

findings based on the interviews and survey responses suggest that cooperatives across the world are providing care, and doing so in a number of ways: as worker coops, as multi-stakeholder coops, and even as adding on care services to existing activities as in the care of housing coops.

Cooperatives make a difference for both care beneficiaries and workers. According to survey respondents, cooperatives often provide higher wages, more benefits and greater bargaining power when negotiating with employers. They also enable care beneficiaries to take ownership and control over their health and wellbeing.

He says cooperatives have established a different approach to health by empowering patients. *"We consider that each patient has its important role to play within the health system. People come to us because they feel that we treat them differently,"* he says.

Apart from serving on the board of IHCO, Dr Guisado is chief executive of Fundacion Espriu of Spain, which provides health services to over two million people and employs 32,500 health professionals. At the time when the foundation was set up 25 years ago the national health system did not exist in Spain.

"We are both users and providers and this makes a very important difference in the health sector," added Dr Guisado.

He thinks the best results can be achieved by having the cooperative sector and the public sector working together for the benefit of consumers. Espriu Foundation is responsible for the running of a number of publicly owned hospitals, a measure which has proved to be efficient, and has increased user satisfaction.

"We are not challenging the public system, we are trying to help them and collaboration with governments is important", says Dr Guisado. In countries like Brazil and Spain the cooperative model in healthcare preceded universal access

to healthcare. Health cooperatives have led the consolidation of the healthcare system. The model is also growing in Canada, where one in 40 people uses cooperatives for wellbeing, medical and social services.

One challenge is that governments often look at the cooperative option for healthcare provision only as a last resort. *"We provide solutions to problems but there is no follow up from that and we need to make it clear to the world that we are a good solution not only for developing countries, but also for developed states."*

In 2014 IHCO launched the survey Better Health and Social Care which looks at the contribution of cooperatives to global healthcare. A second edition of the report is likely to be published next year, says Dr Guisado.

>> See IHCO's report "Better Health and Social Care" at <http://ihco.coop/2014/10/20/better-health-social-care/>

Official launch of the ILO publication "The Story of the ILO's Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193)"

The ILO publication "The Story of the ILO's Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193): A review of the process of making ILO Recommendation No. 193, its implementation and its impact" was launched on 28 May in the ILO headquarters in Geneva. This is a joint effort by the ILO's International Labour Standards Department (NORMES) and the Cooperatives Unit (COOP) to look at the how the Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193) has provided a practical, contemporary framework for the development and revision of cooperative policies and legislation in more than 100 countries since its adoption by the International Labour Conference more than a decade ago.

Around 30 people joined the book launch and listened to the presentations by Karen Curtis, Chief of the Freedom of Association Branch of NORMES, Peter Poschen, Director, ENTEPRISES Department and Hagen Henry, the author of the publication.

The publication is a part of a package on cooperative legislation, which is the ILO's contribution to the legislation pillar of the International Co-operative Alliance's *Blueprint for a co-operative decade*.

>> The package includes two other publications: Henry, H. 2012. Guidelines for cooperative legislation third revised edition (Geneva, ILO) Available at: http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_195533/lang--en/index.htm Smith, S. 2014. Promoting cooperatives: An information guide to ILO Recommendation No. 193 (Geneva, ILO) Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/--coop/documents/publication/wcms_311447.pdf

>> Full text of the story of the ILO Promotion of Cooperative Recommendation, 2002 (No.193) is available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_371631.pdf

COOP staff news



Ms. Amber van Dessel has joined ILO STATISTICS & COOP team joint initiative on Statistics of Cooperatives as an intern. During her internship, she focused on global mapping of data on cooperatives, tackling the issue of the lack of reliable and comparable statistics on cooperatives. As a sociologist she specialized in the policy of work and wrote her Master Thesis on the subject of workers in the social economy. Amber obtained a second Masters degree in Public Management and Policy. During her studies Amber also worked as a researcher at the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy (University of Antwerp).



Ms Bahar Ucar has joined ILO COOP team as an intern for six months to work on a joint initiative with WIEGO focusing on cooperatives' role in transition to the formal economy. With a mapping of these cooperatives and an associated survey, she will focus on the obstacles and needs for established cooperatives. Bahar is Kurdish and writing her Master's thesis in Economics at the University of Vienna, focusing on Gender Equality, Development Economies and the Social and Solidarity Economy. She is also a scholar from the German trade union related foundation Hans-Böckler-Stiftung.

ILO COOP publications

Cooperatives and the World of Work No.3

At work together: The cooperative advantage for people with disabilities

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_378237.pdf

Cooperatives and the World of Work No.4

Rediscovering cooperatives: Young people finding work the cooperative way

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_391216.pdf

BLOG

For many domestic workers, co-ops hold the key to decent work

<http://iloblog.org/2015/07/03/for-many-domestic-workers-co-ops-hold-the-key-to-decent-work/>

REPORT

The Story of the ILO's Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No.193) A review of the process of making ILO Recommendation No. 193, its implementation and its impact

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_371631.pdf

Noteworthy resources

REPORT

Successful Cooperative Ownership Transitions: Case Studies on the Conversion of Privately Held Businesses to Worker Cooperatives

<http://institute.usworker.coop/sites/default/files/OwnershipTransitions-Web.pdf>

BOOK

Josh Lerner - **Making Democracy Fun**

<http://store.toolboxford.org/making-democracy-fun/>

DOCUMENTARY FILM

Fria Tidningar Media Cooperative - **Can We Do It Ourselves**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfaFriFAz1k>

Recent and upcoming events

SEPTEMBER

17-19 The 27th Annual EAEPE Conference 2015, in Genova, Italy. http://eaepe.org/?page=research_areas&side=z_cooperative_economy_and_collective_ownership

OCTOBER

22 "The Provision of Care through Cooperatives: From Global Trends to the Case of Italy" in Geneva, ILO. http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_418992/lang--en/index.htm

NOVEMBER

8-10 ICA ILO Cooperatives and the World of Work Research Conference. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/event/wcms_310424.pdf

10-13 ICA Global Conference, "Toward 2020: What will your co-operative look like?" <http://antalya2015.coop/>

16-17 Seminar on JCCU-ILO African Cooperative Leader Study Tour, Dares Salaam, Tanzania.

16-27 A global event on gender, work and development, ITCILO Campus, Turin, Italy. <http://gender-campus.itcilo.org/academy/>

23-27 ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy in Puebla, Mexico. <http://socialeconomy.itcilo.org/en/files/docs/ssea-2015b-mexico-flyer-es.pdf>



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