



International Co-operative Alliance



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Co-operatives' new era of growth: ICA President

Quebec City, Canada. 9 October, 2012; The global co-operative movement is poised to enter a period of unheralded strength and growth, said the President of the International Co-operative Alliance today.

Dame Pauline Green, on the launch of *Building A Better World: 100 Stories of Co-operation*, said the widespread disenchantment with the corporate business sector and the political status quo as demonstrated by the Occupy Wall Street and Arab Spring movements had put the co-operative enterprise model in the global limelight.

"Never before has the co-operative movement found itself so well positioned to cut a path to a more diversified, stable and sustainable global economy," said Charles Gould, ICA Director-General.

Co-operatives, said Dame Pauline, are at the forefront of a sustainable solution to the financial crisis that continues to beset the globe and with a collaborative effort to push co-operatives into national and regional policy and legislative frameworks, much growth can be achieved.

"Owned by nearly one billion people across the globe, employing over 100 million people worldwide, and representing micro businesses through to global institutions, co-operatives know that they can do much more to support individuals, families and communities in the coming decades," writes Dame Pauline in the book's introduction.

Building a Better World: 100 Stories of Co-operation is one of the ICA's contributions to the UN International Year of Co-operatives.

"Our aim with this book was to produce a lasting tribute to the co-operative movement, to demonstrate its extreme depth and application, by telling the personal stories of co-operators from around the globe," said the book's author, Kate Askew. "Much generosity of spirit was displayed by so many co-operators in the production - without their honest portrayals of their own sometimes harrowing, always inspiring personal stories, we would not have been able to produce such a true portrait of this powerful movement."

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NOTES TO EDITOR

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

ICA members are international and national co-operative organisations from all sectors of the economy including agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, industry, insurance and tourism. The ICA has member organisations from almost 100 countries, representing approximately 1 billion individuals worldwide. Around 100 million people work for a co-op globally. ICA was established by co-operatives in 1895. In 1946 the ICA became one of the first three non-governmental organisations to be accorded "consultative status" with the United Nations.

2. **Co-operatives** are successful values based businesses owned by their members. Whether they are customers, employees or residents, the members get an equal say in the business and a share of the profits.
3. The United Nations has declared 2012 the **International Year of Co-operatives**. With its theme of 'co-operative enterprises build a better world', the Year is an opportunity to raise public awareness of how co-operatives are successful values based businesses owned by their members.
4. Further information about the International Year of Co-operatives is available at www.2012.coop.
5. Follow the ICA on **twitter** at @icacoop. Like the ICA's **Facebook** page at www.facebook.com/internationalcooperativealliance

