



# International Co-operative Alliance



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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### One billion owners cannot be wrong

**Quebec City (Canada) 8 October 2012** – A meeting this week of leading co-operative businesses will look at overcoming the obstacles to even greater global co-operative business growth in the coming decades.

Speaking at the launch of the first International Summit of Cooperatives, in Quebec City, the President of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), Dame Pauline Green said, "With Spain's youth unemployment rate at 53% and 25 million young people unemployed across the Eurozone; and with 17,000 children dying every day from hunger related causes in the developing world, the co-operative movement wants to get behind the plans of Jim Yong Kim, the World Bank's new chief, to end poverty by promoting private sector partnerships and ensuring the benefits are shared throughout a developing society.

"That's just what we, as co-operative business do everyday," said Dame Pauline.

"Across the world, over the last four years, the co-operative movement has been serving people in the real economy. Throughout the financial crisis and recession, our co-operative banks and credit unions have continued to lend to individuals and businesses and more than one million individuals have moved their bank accounts from the commercial sector to co-operatives."

"The momentum we have built up during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) must continue. What this year has given the co-operative movement is cohesion and confidence."

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COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD



"A billion people are not starry-eyed idealists they are realists. They are members of co-operatives because it works for them and their families. These businesses coming together in such numbers to make our co-operative future are the voice of the billion," said Dame Pauline.

A critical document called a Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade will be finalised at the Summit. It will be unveiled by the ICA at the concluding event of the IYC in Manchester, Co-operatives United, in three weeks time.

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### **Interviews with Dame Pauline Green (International Summit of Coops):**

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### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

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

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

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