

PRESS RELEASE

Creating a stronger voice for co-operatives

Manchester, UK — Co-operatives worldwide are set to receive a stronger voice on the internet through the Global News Hub website.

The Hub will showcase co-operative news from across the world, and will be a part of the United Nations' celebrations for the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012.

From September 2nd 2011, the website — in development by the UK-based Co-operative News — will also feed content to the International Co-operative Alliance's official website for the International Year at 2012.coop.

All articles will be listed on www.thenews.coop, and, using the latest in internet technology, content will be automatically tagged to appear in a number of categories people, organisation name and sector.

The multi-lingual website will automatically personalise news updates to the user based on their country or region. Co-operators will also be invited to take part in the website through setting up their own blog, commenting on articles or engaging through social networks.

Anthony Murray, Online Editor of thenews.coop, said:

"Co-operative News is excited to be working with the International Co-operative Alliance on the Global News Hub, and we are proud to work with co-operatives on a global scale to help give our sector a stronger voice.

"The mission of Global News Hub is to promote co-operative enterprise and initiatives, plus co-operators from around the world can also engage with each other to discuss initiatives and ideas that concern the movement.

"We will be at the heart of celebrations throughout the UN's International Year of Co-operatives, and thenews.coop will be following every idea and every word from across the world."

Charles Gould, Director-General, International Co-operative Alliance, said:

"We're delighted that contemporaneous news provided by the Global News Hub will feature so prominently in the ICA International Year of Co-operatives website — 2012.coop, when it launches in the autumn.

"This exciting initiative by Co-operative Press begins a new era for both organisations as we seek new ways to communicate the co-operative message to a global audience."

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EDITOR'S NOTES

For more information on the Global News Hub, please contact Anthony Murray via email: anthony@thenews.coop or telephone +44(0)161 214 0873. The Global News Hub will be launched on September 2nd at www.thenews.coop.

The Global News Hub is being developed by Co-operative Press Ltd, publishers of the fortnightly Co-operative News and www.thenews.coop. Co-operative Press is also publisher of the short URL service <http://s.coop/>.

Support for the Global News Hub is being given by the International Co-operative Alliance as part of its plan to raise the profile of co-operatives during the United Nations' International Year of Co-operatives. For more details about the ICA visit: www.ica.coop.