

End of Year Newsletter

1. Message from the President



We are ending a year of intense work, with great shared moments. We have met many times to think and reflect, to plan and carry out actions that contribute to making the co-operative movement visible and to position it within the international context.

Our societies are going through hard times, in the economic, social and political aspects. As young people we know that the labour situation is complex, that it is not always easy to accomplish our projects. These are key problems, which we can't ignore and as a co-operative movement we can seek ways to deal with them together.

We know there's a lot to do and to improve, that we have to keep promoting the quality of the young people's participation in their co-operatives, encouraging the development of educational strategies, and especially seeking the commitment of co-operatives to provide more opportunities to young people.

Sadly we recently had the news of José Antonio Chávez Villanueva's death, a young cooperative member who represented us in the best way possible and who worked actively in the development of youth networks. Through this year we've been able to share moments with him, and share his ideas and projects. That's why he will remain in our memory and his departure commits us even more to continue strengthening this space that he helped initiate.

With the following lines we want to share with you the progress we have accomplished through the year 2014 and also tell you about the projects for the next year. We take this opportunity to greet and wish you all a great start for the New Year.

In 2015, the global Youth Network will focus on the following projects. More information on these projects is provided in this newsletter:

1. A feasibility study for a co-operative social media platform
2. A diagnostic of the youth movement globally and regionally
3. A Youth Assembly during the week of the Global Conference and General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance: www.antalya2015.coop
4. Other events for youth

2. Call for Consultant

The Youth Network of the International Co-operative Alliance seeks an expert consultant to conduct a feasibility study for a co-operative social media platform. The objectives of the co-operative social media platform are to support the aims of the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade. More information on the [study](#) is available on our youth network page.

3. Become a Member of the Youth Network

The mailing list of the youth network is currently made up of those interested in co-operative youth and those who have attended various conferences. The new [constitution](#) of the Youth

Network now formalises this mailing list into members and adherents.

Members will be those persons up to 35 years inclusive and associated to organizations belonging to the Alliance. Individuals will need to submit a form to the Youth Network secretariat which is signed by a member organisation of the Alliance.

Adherents will be persons that although they are not associated with members from Alliance, or are not of the age of youth, support the co-operative youth movement or want to develop it. Adherents can join the mailing list, but will not be able to participate as a Member of the Alliance Youth Network. To join the mailing list, contact the secretariat at hacquard@ica.coop.

To participate in the Alliance Youth Network as a member, please fill out the [membership form](#) today!

4. Country Diagnostic

In order for the global Youth Network to create a strategy that meets the needs of the co-operative youth network globally, we would like to complete a study on the youth movements. Where do strong youth co-operative movements exist? What are your needs and challenges? To help us out with this project, please contact us for the questionnaire.

5. Young Scholars Programme

The International Co-operative Alliance's Committee on Co-operative Research (CCR) has developed a [Young Scholars Program](#) to promote co-operative research among new scholars. The Young Scholars Programme is open to new researchers studying co-operatives, whether graduate students, post-doctoral students and young scholars within two years of receiving their degrees.

6. Young Co-operators Prize

Altgen, which supports young people starting co-ops, together with Co-operatives UK and ten universities across the country, has launched the Young Co-operators Prize to recognise new student and graduate co-operatives. The prize will support five groups of young people to set up their own co-operative enterprise by providing mentoring, business support and a £2,000 prize. 70% of the members must be in the UK. More information: www.y-c-p.co.uk

7. Call for Youth Speakers

The International Co-operative Alliance will hold its next [global conference](#) in Antalya, Turkey during the week of 10-13 November. The theme is "Towards 2020: What will your co-operative look like"?

Youth are a very important part of the future of the co-operative movement and are included in the [Blueprint](#) for a Co-operative Decade. Therefore, we would like to encourage the youth movement to be part of the conference instead of holding a separate youth conference as in the past.

We need your help – if you or any other youth you know could speak on one of the various [sub-themes](#) during the conference workshops, please provide these ideas to Rodrigo Gouveia, Director of Policy at gouveia@ica.coop.

8. Youth Network in Africa



We are pleased to announce the creation of a Youth Network for Africa, approved by the Regional Assembly Africa in November 2014. The new interim President for the Africa Youth Network, elected at their General Assembly in November 2014, is Lawrence Monyahi, who you can contact at madambi@hotmail.com. Mr Monyahi is the National Secretary for the South African National Apex Cooperative (SANACO) in South Africa.

We now have three formal youth networks regionally – Asia-Pacific, Americas and Africa.

9. European Youth Network for Co-operatives

We are pleased to announce that the Cooperatives Europe's Board of Directors approved the creation of a European network of young cooperators at its last meeting on 27th November 2014. The network should be formally launched at the next General Assembly in Paris on April 23-24, where a specific event will be organised. To learn more, contact Mirko Nodari at m.nodari@coopseurope.coop.

10. Messages from Asia-Pacific



Dear friends of the Alliance, colleagues and co-operators at large,

Here's to - wishing a promising 2015!

As this year's message from the office of the Asia-Pacific Committee on Youth Cooperation, my responsibility as Chairperson and the co-opted Asia-Pacific Alliance Board Member becomes difficult while remembering Jose Antonio Chavez Villanueva whom we lost just a few weeks ago.

Please accept my message on behalf of the youth movement in co-operatives (7th annual), Ms. Indira Panta (member-Nepal) took active steps on the Meeting's theme: Financial Literacy for Youth through co-operatives; workshops were organised with the ICYC's encouragement in Kathmandu, Nawal-Parasi and Pokhara in Nepal on the mentioned theme from 7-10/12/2014. The gatherings were attended by youth(16-40), students, Principals and faculty, Ministers of Youth, Finance of Nepal, Registrar of Co-operative societies, various national co-operative federations from Nepal and parents. We will share this fantastic experience in detail in the new year, and would extend gratitude to Indira on her organisational skills and empathy towards her nation's youth that at the moment lacks an understanding on the co-operative difference.

In line with the ICA Blueprint, the ICYC formulated somewhat of a mission to the World Conference on Youth in May, 2014 that was held years after the The efforts of the youth from Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Federation (COOPFED) and ICYC Members from China, Nepal, Pakistan, India ensured a mention of the term co-operatives in the declaration as an alternative model of enterprise that needs promotion in youth and marginalised sections of society. We are looking forward to urge governments and public authorities to utilise the Colombo Declaration, in the context of co-operatives now that the document has been presented to the heads of states of nations in the UN system during its General Assembly in September this year.

We, as a committee, met five times during the year! There were three electronic meetings (February – April – July) and two occasions to physically meet at Colombo in May and Bali in

September. We aren't done doing cooperative business for the year yet! The 7th Electronic Meeting of the ICYC is scheduled for 23/12/2014 at 1600 hrs IST.

I would also add ICYC's commitment to the global co-operative youth movement and its benefits to the youth of nations, the real wealth of nations!! I am happy that the Alliance in its wisdom elected Mr. Aditya Yadav, 26 year old co-operator from India as a Global Board Member. I wish and pray we attain proper knowledge to understand these adverse phenomenon and take action to prepare & prevent this, from the lives of our young.

Hope, faith and patience to all, for all.

In Co-operation,

SUKESH ZAMWAR (Dr.)

Chairperson – Committee on Youth Co-operation

Vice Chairperson – Global Youth Network

CEO – Buldana Urban Credit Co-operative Society Ltd., India



Dear Co-operators, Youth Advocates & Activist, Friends and Colleagues,

We achieved so much in the year 2014 and survived the error that we made and overcame some of the difficulties in 2014. Now, we are moving forward to 2015, where we must learn from our mistakes and make new ones in the process. Just with one difference, we are better and stronger than before and we are progressing slowly but steadily together.

Our Co-operative movement is the proof of that, representing the Global effort of our youth is the verification that we need and our motivation to progress is the symbol of our devotion. We have the ingredients now that we need to stir the pot to obtain our desired objectives.

In the end, I just like to share this quote by Edith Lovejoy Pierce:-

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

Have a great day, a wonderful year and a prosperous future. Keep co-operating and bless you all.

Ahsan Ali Thakur

Youth Representative

Karachi Co-operative Housing Society Union
Ltd.

Pakistan

Vice-Chairperson,

Youth Committee

ICA-AP

10.Messages from the Americas

This year was a year of achievements, successes and challenges for co-operative youth of the Americas. And we enjoyed working for youth! These were some of our achievements in 2014:

1. In July we had our 1st Regional Seminar for Youth of the Americas, in Dominican Republic, attended by over 100 young people from 11 countries in the Americas, developing a youth statement to guide the direction of the co-operative youth of our continent.
2. The committee promoted and participated in various youth events in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Argentina and Colombia. In the latter we organised the III Youth Assembly, in which the new Board of the Regional Youth Committee, represented by young leaders from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Peru, Puerto Rico and Mexico, was elected.

3. It is an honor for us to share -in support of gender equality- that our committee is composed of four women and three men, and all give our best efforts to contribute to the objectives for which the International Cooperative Alliance in the Americas created this committee. We expect challenges and work; and need the support and participation of you. We are very interested in interacting with cooperative committees and youth leaders from other regions of the globe.

In 2015 the Committee in the Americas will work on six central aspects:

1. Communications Technology for Youth.
2. Events for young people.
3. External impact with public agencies and universities.
4. Training and development of methodologies and models of cooperative education for young people.
5. Structures and capacity development of national youth committees and local.
6. External exposure and image of youth activities in the region.

For more information: www.facebook.com/crjcoop **Twitter:** @crjcoop
Email: juventud@aciamericas.coop

Álvaro Ernesto Guevara
Vice Chairperson
Youth Network
Caja Popular Mexicana
Mexico

Chairperson
Cooperatives of the Americas Youth Network



As part of the Co-operatives of Americas Regional Office I want to pause and recognize our deepest gratitude. I do not mention all the reasons for this, but I want to highlight three:

1. You! and people like you, with a spirit of solidarity and commitment.
2. Members and partners! In this Regional Office every day we are more motivated for their inspiration and dedication. 98 organizations of America and their representatives had the confidence in the International Cooperative Alliance and decided to work together to achieve objectives in common.
3. Achievements!

2015 will be a year full of challenges and opportunities for each of us, and especially I invite you and all the young people to find or strengthen those reasons that motivate to do the best in everything. Let us remember that the cooperative movement is a space for all, in which in addition to develop ourselves as individuals can contribute to the development of other people.

Lauren T. Naranjo Jiménez
Youth Network
Cooperatives of the Americas

Voices of the members of the Youth Board in the Americas:



"This year was successful for the co-operative youth of the Americas"

Chairman

Álvaro Ernesto Guevara

Mexico - Caja Popular Mexicana



"We are committed youth co-operatives and we need you to achieve"

Vice-chairman

Gabriel Di Francesco

Argentina - Cooperar



"We invite you to join us on our website and contact us"

Secretary

Amarilys Roldán Reyes

Puerto Rico - Cooperative League



"I invite the youth to join the co-operative movement that we all make one team"

Treasurer

Yilda Adary Oviedo Gómez

Dominican Republic – Coopronf



"I want to invite you all to work with youth in their co-operatives and diffuse the co-operative message"

Member

Alicia Edith Chávez García

Peru - Francisco Bolognesi



"I invite everyone to take a step further and have faith in you: young"

Member

Carlos Medrano Pérez

Dominican Republic-Coopnama



"We invite you to participate in all our activities"

Member

Leidy Lorena Restrepo Ramírez

Colombia – Coomeva

11. Tribute to José Antonio Chávez



“Toño” chaired the Cooperatives of the Americas Youth Network since 2007 and was one the main promoters of its transformation into the current Youth Regional Committee. He also played an essential role as an International Cooperative Alliance Youth Representative from 2009 to 2013. We are forever grateful to José Antonio for his dedication and work during all these years.

We send a fraternal embrace to his family, friends and colleagues from the Federación de Cajas Populares Alianza, and express our sincerest condolences for the loss of our dear friend.