



33rd WORLD COOPERATIVE CONGRESS

1-3 DECEMBER 2021 • SEOUL • REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Programme (at a glance)

- 30 November
- 1 December
- 2 December
- 3 December



EXAMINING our
cooperative identity



STRENGTHENING our
cooperative identity



COMMITTING TO our
cooperative identity



LIVING our
cooperative identity

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icaworldcoopcongress.coop



Welcome

The 33rd World Cooperative Congress will be a historic moment for the global cooperative movement. We will not only be exploring our cooperative identity, but also showcase ways to build a more secure future. The Congress programme will aim to deepen the cooperative identity by **examining** its values, **strengthening** its actions, **committing** to its principles, and **living** its achievements. These four themes will be addressed through a range of plenaries and parallel sessions designed to highlight the cooperative difference. I look forward to welcoming you to Congress, be that in person in Seoul, the Republic of Korea or virtually.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Speakers include



Ela Bhatt

Activist, Chancellor of
Gujarat Vidyapith
University and Chair of
Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram



Guy Ryder

Director General
International Labour
Organization



Young Bum, Park

Vice Minister, Ministry of
Agriculture, Food and
Rural Affairs, Korea



John Houston

Film Producer
and Director



Idoia Mendia

Deputy President &
Regional Minister for
Labour and Employment,
Basque Government



**Iñigo Albizuri
Landazabal**

Global Head of Public
Affairs, Mondragon
Corporation



Olivier De Schutter

UN Special Rapporteur
for Extreme Poverty
and Human Rights



Pre-Congress events

ICA Cooperative Research Conference & 3rd International Forum on Cooperative Law

28–30 November 2021

Within the framework of the 33rd World Cooperative Congress, two preparatory research-based events – the ICA Cooperative Research Conference (Research Conference) and the 3rd International Forum on Cooperative Law (Law Forum) will be organized in a hybrid format from 28 to 30 November 2021, with the aim to stimulate discussions during the Congress.

The Research Conference and the Law Forum will be organized physically in the Grand Walkerhill Hotel as well as virtually through the Congress online platform. Both research-based events will present about 180 research papers from 43 countries and organize 18 special panel sessions, all dedicated to the issue of the Cooperative Identity.



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30 November 2021



14:00 GLOBAL COOPERATIVE IMPACT FUND – GCI

Presentation of a development fund project for the cooperative movement by the cooperative movement

14:30 ICA G20 WG PROMOTING THE COOPERATIVE IDENTITY IN THE G20

Presentation of the ICA G20 WG established in 2021 and its first successes

15:00 ICETT THINK TANK PUBLIC SEMINAR WORD AND COOPERATIVE MONITOR

The ICA International Cooperative Entrepreneurship Think Tank (ICETT) recently established and grouping large cooperatives and cooperative groups will share the state-of-the-art of their work on the future of work, human rights in value chains, the SDGs and the cooperative identity as competitive advantage. The 2021 and tenth annual issue of the World Cooperative Monitor, on which ICETT collaborates, will also be presented

16:00 COFFEE BREAK

14:30 CONCLUSIONS OF THE ICA COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE LAW FORUM

Open to all Congress participants, the main findings of the two research events that took place from November 28 to 30 will be discussed. In particular, the importance of research on cooperative identity will be discussed and the impact of this research on the daily operations of cooperatives in all sectors will be discussed.

16:45 END OF CONGRESS PRE-EVENT

30 November 2021



18:30

WELCOME TO THE ICA 33RD WORLD CONGRESS RECEPTION

19:00

CELEBRATING COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

Atautsikut / Leaving None Behind – by John HOUSTON, film producer, Canada

A lived story of a humanitarian project based on trust and the duty to help people. The importance of cooperatives and their identity (the identity of Inuit cooperatives is intimately linked to the very identity of the people who make them up), the capacity of these cooperatives to unite individuals and communities for a common good. John and his Inuit friend will speak from the bottom of their hearts.

19:30

OPENING COCKTAIL OF THE COOPERATIVE INNOVATION FAIR

1 December 2021

09:00

OPENING SPEECHES BY DIGNITARIES

10:00

ALL ABOARD FOR A JOURNEY INTO OUR IDENTITY

10:15

INSTRUCTION FOR THE DAY

10:30

COFFEE BREAK AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

11:00

PLENARY 1 — EXAMINING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY



The cooperative identity unites us to work for the common good. Our values and principles give millions of people control of their own lives, their future, and serve as the strong foundation that sets cooperatives apart from other types of enterprises. How can our business model stay relevant in addressing today's global challenges?

1 December 2021



11:30

ROUND TABLE 1 — EXAMINING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY – A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY



An expert panel will discuss the unique opportunities that our cooperative identity presents to us for meeting members' needs and attaining expanded market share, taking the ongoing crisis as an opportunity.

12:30

LUNCH AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

PARALLEL SESSIONS: EXAMINING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY THROUGH...

14:00

1.1 ...A STRONG COOPERATIVE BRAND



Good brand management has been shown to support business growth. In cooperatives, through the COOP marque and the dotcoop domain name, branding is also a reflection of the cooperative identity, with its values and principles, helping to build loyalty and increase the number of members. Cooperative branding can highlight cooperative identity and its components that most resonate with the public, like commitment to members and the community, while giving cooperatives a competitive edge. What is the best way to manage cooperative branding? What are the best examples? And how can we measure its impact?

1 December 2021

14:00

1.2 ...INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE



Participation and inclusion of cultural, gender and age diversity are fundamental for a sound cooperative governance, and they are at the heart of our cooperative identity. To keep these characteristics alive, we must continuously question ourselves: Are we inclusive enough? What can we do to keep the cooperative identity appealing to everyone? How do we make sure our governance practices are inclusive and welcoming to all?

14:00

1.3 ...EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Cooperative Principle #5 provides cooperatives with the basis to prioritise education, training and information for all. It's necessary to make cooperative curricula commonly and readily available at all levels of educational institutions, from elementary and secondary schools to college and university degree programs. What are the best emblematic examples? What have we learned from them? How can they be disseminated faster?

14:00

1.4 ...COOPERATIVE CULTURE AND SAFEGUARDING CULTURAL HERITAGE



In 2016, UNESCO, via the German cooperative movement, recognized cooperatives as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. UNESCO's decision is an important acknowledgment of the dedication shown by millions of people working in cooperatives all over the world. What is the implication of this honour? How can we promote it to strengthen the pride in, and value of cooperative identity worldwide?

1 December 2021



14:00

1.5 ...THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENTS



Many cooperatives have been created through grassroots campaigns. Others have been promoted and supported by governments as part of a country's economic strategy. Others have successfully developed a partnership ecosystem with governments through public policy co-creation and co-management. It has been shown that such approaches can be effective in growing the cooperative movement, especially in rural and marginalised communities. What lessons can we learn from these approaches? How can we encourage more governments to consider these approaches as part of their strategy for a sustainable future for all?

15:30

COFFEE BREAK AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

16:00

PLENARY — WHAT EMERGES FROM PARALLEL SESSIONS? AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RAPPORTEURS



16:30

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DAY 2

16:45

END OF DAY

2 December 2021



09:00

WELCOME WORDS

09:10

PLENARY 2 — STRENGTHENING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY



Innovation and entrepreneurship are more important than ever in facing today's complex global economy. The people-centred cooperative model nurtures talent, creativity and encourages innovative ideas to create a more humane and inclusive society. How do we make our cooperative identity a competitive advantage in the global market?

09:40

ROUND TABLE — STRENGTHENING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY — THE BEST OF IT



This expert panel will discuss whether cooperatives, by reinforcing their identity, have a unique business opportunity to innovate beyond current market conditions – as their performance after the global crash of 2008 and during the pandemic crisis suggest.

10:40

COFFEE BREAK AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

2 December 2021

PARALLEL SESSIONS: STRENGTHENING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY BY...

11:10

2.1 ...TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DIGITAL AGE



The digital economy is around us. It transforms the world as we know it. From the “new normal” introduced by COVID-19, business models are emerging motivated by positive social impact, sustainable development and inclusion of gender and cultures. However, the digital economy is profoundly disrupting the world of work. What must be done to remain a source of inspiration while respecting members and their common interest? How can cooperatives guarantee a bright future for workers while going digital?

11:10

2.2 ...SUPPORTING AN ETHICAL VALUE CHAIN MANAGEMENT



All types of organizations need to demonstrate an ethical, strong and resilient value chain that meets the highest standards to fight modern slavery, financial crime and climate change. Cooperative members are demanding more information on the products and services they consume. Regulators are considering stricter enforcement programs with substantial penalties for those who do not comply. How satisfactory are the relationships of cooperatives to current partner organizations in various value chains? Are there more business opportunities within the global Fair-Trade? Are secondary and tertiary cooperatives being used for leveraging the regional and global markets? Are they providing enough support to primary cooperatives and their communities?

2 December 2021



11:10

2.3 ...HAVING A STRONG ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK



Innovation and entrepreneurship require the ability to connect to a large support network of people, ideas and financial resources. Successful cooperative partnerships and groupings, both sectoral and cross-sectoral, have developed in many countries over the last decades, based on cooperative Principle #6: cooperation among cooperatives. Can strong global networks of cooperatives be created to increase market shares and enter new ones? How do cooperatives pool entrepreneurial support services for start-ups, worker and community buyouts?

11:10

2.4 ...MEETING FUTURE CAPITAL NEEDS



Based on their identity, cooperative enterprises have a specific capital structure because of their ownership and control system, with limited nominal capital contributed by members, while building long-term reserve funds. As a result, cooperatives strive to find innovative ways to build capital in order to support their development and make sure their capitalization model is taken into consideration by regulators. What should be done to ensure a form of capital management that allows for cooperatives to innovate, be resilient, grow and succeed in their mission?

11:10

2.5 ...SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURIAL INNOVATION



According to their international definition, cooperatives are characterized by being both enterprises and associations, and their true identity can only be acquired if a balance between the two elements is maintained. Therefore, entrepreneurial innovation must embody cooperative values and principles. What are their growth trajectories? How have cooperatives pursued entrepreneurial innovation while embodying cooperative values? What challenges must cooperatives overcome to become successful future businesses?

2 December 2021



12:40

LUNCH AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

14:10

PLENARY — WHAT EMERGES FROM PARALLEL SESSIONS 2? - AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RAPPORTEURS



14:40

PLENARY 3 — COMMITTING TO OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY



Inclusion and humanity are at the core of our identity, making cooperatives a valuable tool in the construction of positive peace. We respond to the needs of refugees, rebuild after natural disasters, look after the most vulnerable, and respond to the ravages of a global pandemic. These crises are constantly threatening an increasingly globalised economy. How can cooperatives work together to bring about positive and lasting change in the world?

15:10

ROUND TABLE — COMMITTING TO OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY FOR A POSITIVE GLOBAL CHANGE



The expert panel will discuss the present and future roles of cooperatives in affecting positive global change. Cooperatives have been very much involved and have very much to offer regarding peace construction and reconstruction, addressing the needs of refugees and manage natural disaster recovery.

2 December 2021

16:10

COFFEE BREAK AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

PARALLEL SESSIONS: COMMITTING TO OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY BY...

16:40

3.1 ...THE SURVIVAL OF THE PLANET



The top priority of a majority of institutions on the planet is to act on climate change. Covid-19 has highlighted the interdependence between the degradation of the environment and health risks – but cooperatives had already been firmly committed to UN Sustainable Development Goals, long before the pandemic. How does the global cooperative movement fight against climate change? What measures are being taken in cooperative sectors – agriculture, fisheries, consumption, housing, health, banking, insurance, industry and services, etc. to mitigate the adverse effects of the climate crisis and build resilience? How do the different cooperative sectors address the loss of biodiversity? What are the best coping strategies?

16:40

3.2 ...PEACE AND EQUALITY



According to the ICA Declaration on Positive Peace through Cooperatives (2019), peace based on “*good contribution in the community, particularly cooperation and integration, reconciliation and equality*” is **positive peace**. Many times, cooperatives have been directly involved in positive peace initiatives without being necessarily recognized for the direct role they have played. Does support for positive peace feature prominently in the global cooperative movement? How do their actions translate into restoring post-conflict peace and stability, conflict prevention, natural disaster recovery and the refugee crisis?

2 December 2021



16:40

3.3 ...COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE WORLD



By giving local communities direct control over their destiny, whether in agricultural production, health, housing, education, industry, retail, banking or energy, cooperatives play a decisive role in the world economy. There are lessons to be learned from successes and failures in international cooperative development. What lessons have been learnt from the ICA-EU Partnership programme in cooperative development? How have the values and principles which are part of the cooperative identity been important in this process?

16:40

3.4 ...STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY



Cooperative Principle #7: Concern for Community emphasizes the cooperative contribution to local community development, while promoting the economic participation of their members. The cooperative model has the potential to play a key role in communities facing various social problems, such as poverty, inequality and unemployment. It is an excellent model for building circular and autogenous communities by promoting the revitalization of the regional economy, creating jobs and increasing the social and economic participation of members in community development. How can this be enhanced to help communities facing various social issues? How can the cooperative movement help build independent, self-reliant communities that will reinvest their own knowledge and resources back in the community itself?

16:40

3.5 ...FACING CRISES WITH STRENGTH



The COVID-19 pandemic is the best example of how disasters often occur unexpectedly and cause social, health and economic harm. Our open democratic system helps us face and overcome health, social and economic crises. Cooperatives have repeatedly shown resilience to crises. What have cooperatives done to emerge from this crisis?

18:10 END OF DAY

3 December 2021



09:00

OPENING SPEECHES BY DIGNITARIES

09:10

PLENARY — WHAT EMERGES FROM PARALLEL SESSIONS 3? - AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RAPPORTEURS



09:40

PLENARY 4 — LIVING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY



The foundation of our identity drives cooperatives to pursue fundamental positive change in our world such as support for the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. As grassroots organisations led by their members, cooperatives are working strongly to offer effective approaches to sustainable development in the communities in which they are rooted. But how are UN global policies being turned into effective local actions?

10:10

ROUND TABLE — LIVING OUR IDENTITY FOR THE BEST OF SDGs



Representatives of the ICA sectors will present their top three ideas for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. Attendees will have the opportunity to comment and add ideas to the discussion.

3 December 2021



11:10 COFFEE BREAK AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

PARALLEL SESSIONS: LIVING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY WITH...

11:40 4.1 ...REWARDING JOBS



To maintain the cooperative movement's vision of fair and ethical economic development to ensure a bright future and rewarding jobs, more autonomy and active participation for workers, cooperatives must adapt to the changes brought about by computer systems and AI. They demonstrate a high level of innovation in creating new forms of work and working relationships. How will the relationship between unions and cooperatives look like in the future? What lessons can we learn from these new approaches?

11:40 4.2 ...ACCESSIBLE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES



There are few issues that unite people around the world more than health care and health-related social services, especially under a global pandemic. Cooperatives have excelled in both fields and offer a unique alternative to the debate between public and private services. What innovative approaches have been implemented to face the growing cost of health care? How are cooperatives meeting the growing needs of both aging populations and vulnerable people? What might a cooperative program reflecting the future of care look like? How can the cooperative movement contribute to making health a priority for all?

3 December 2021



11:40

4.3 ...ENHANCED FOOD SECURITY



The relationship between food production and consumption is being tested in many ways – climate change, drought, flooding, refugee displacement, and rural depopulation. Particularly acute is the disruption of the chains of production and distribution. This, however, has provided a renewed role to cooperatives engaged in agricultural production. How do cooperatives address new ways to ensure production in food systems? How does this contribute to building sustainable, ethical and inclusive value chains?

11:40

4.4 ...AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ENERGY



Access to affordable housing and affordable energy are closely linked. Cooperatives have a role to play in the provision of both. Can housing cooperatives be instrumental in providing clean, affordable energy to their members? Are there opportunities for collaboration with cooperatives in the energy sector?"

11:40

4.5 ...WITHIN THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY



Cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy actors working with local governments in delivering services within society constitute an engine to improve local and territorial development. It is recognized that the social and solidarity economy (SSE) create wealth in urban and rural areas and contributes to sustainable local and territorial development. What are the best practices in such partnerships? How do we develop policies and programs that are favourable to the social and solidarity economy?

13:10

LUNCH AT THE EXHIBITORS' FAIR

3 December 2021



14:40

PLENARY — WHAT EMERGES FROM PARALLEL SESSIONS 4? – AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RAPPORTEURS



15:10

NEXT STEPS — CONGRESS CONCLUSION

15:30

CLOSING REMARKS

15:40

END OF THE 2021 WORLD COOPERATIVE CONGRESS



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