

Research and Law video transcript

Ahead of the 2021 #WorldCoopCongress, researchers and legal experts and practitioners met in Seoul, Republic of Korea, for the ICA Cooperative Research Conference and 3rd International Forum on Cooperative Law.

Sonja Novkovic, Chair of the ICA Committee on Cooperative Law

So we're here in Seoul, Korea, talking to you from the Research Conference of the International Cooperative Alliance Research Committee.

The conference is followed by the Law Forum and then we move into the Congress of the International Cooperative Alliance, celebrating 125 years of the organization.

So the topic of the conference is the same as Congress, and that is 'Deepening the Cooperative Identity'. The researchers from all around the world have sent us their research pieces on identifying how cooperatives live and exhibit the statement on the cooperative identity. We have looked at some of the papers that explore the depth and operationalization of the statement, but they also look at the outcomes and impact of cooperatives aligned with the statement on the cooperative identity.

So we looked at the papers have explored the sustainable development goals and alignment of the outcomes of cooperative functioning with sustainable development goals .

But we also talked about the values that underpin the statement, the diversity of values and cultures that feed into the cooperative statement and that actually align well with the intent of cooperation.

We had many participants from Korea, which is really wonderful because this is the host country and with this challenge of COVID, it is really quite impressive to see the number of people who gathered to actually exchange experiences and opinions.

Santosh Kumar, Director of Legislation, International Cooperative Alliance

So we've just come back from what was an exciting first day of the Third International Forum on Cooperative Law, which is organized by IUS Cooperativum Association and the ICA.

The previous two were held in Montevideo and Athens, and this is the first time that this forum is being organized with the ICA, in the background of the 33rd World Cooperative Congress, so perhaps it doesn't get better or bigger.

We had about 50 speakers enrolled for today and tomorrow, 30 of them presented today, more than 30 countries are represented and the theme was the Identity of Cooperatives and Harmonization of Cooperative Laws. Match or mismatch.

So for cooperative lawyers, this is quite interesting, for the harmonization of laws is an interesting subject, and the identity of cooperatives is something that is already, I would say is harmonized to a large extent around the world thanks to the statement on Cooperative Identity. We spoke about technology and cooperative law principles, identity and cooperative law education.

And tomorrow we will be discussing about regional, national and international perspectives and recent developments and the work that my colleagues at the ICA have done on the legal framework analysis will also be discussed.

So if you've registered for the Congress, please do join the online platform or find us at Acadia and watch the presentations and participate in the forum for it's indeed a forum of cooperative lawyers.

Stay safe and thanks to Cooperative News for doing this.