

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

January



International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) President Dr. Ariel Guarco made a historical round trip to Eastern Africa. He visited Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia between 13th and 24th January with Mr. Japheth Magomere, ICA-Africa President, ICA Director General Mr. Bruno Roelants and ICA-Africa Regional Director Dr. Chiyoge Sifa.

The President met ICA members, cooperatives, Ministers and Secretaries of State in charge of cooperatives, and the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament. It was

also the occasion to finalize the agreement with the Rwandan government regarding the ICA Kigali General Assembly, Global Conference and Exhibition that was to take place from 12th -18th October 2019.

The trip was very important for the movement in Africa as it led to an improvement in relations with the government. Here find the highlights of each country to learn more about the trip [Kenya](#), [Uganda](#), [Rwanda](#), [Tanzania](#), and [Ethiopia](#). Also discover more pictures of the visits [here](#)



The Cooperative Toudarte: a story of the Amazigh women's life success and empowerment.

Coopérative toudarte (Berber women of Coopérative toudarte) documentary done by Aroundtheworld.coop (photo credit) is [here](#). A cooperative in Morocco with women working on *Argania spinosa* seeds

to make argan oil since 2004. More information about this wonderful Berber women of Coopérative toudarte, please find it [here](#).

February



The First Middle East and North Africa Co-operative Development Conference #MENACDC.

ICA-Africa and ICA-Asia and Pacific jointly organized for a Cooperative Development Conference (CDC) focusing on cooperatives and stakeholders in the

Middle East and North African (MENA) region to exchange knowledge, develop common positions and promote collaboration to develop co-operatives in the region.



Cooperatives and Peace: Strengthening Democracy, Participation and Trust.

Cooperatives Europe in partnership with the UK Cooperative College and CoopsEurope Development Platform (CEDP) released a research report on “Cooperatives and Peace: Strengthening Democracy, Participation and Trust – A Case Study Approach”. The research covered 20 inspiring case studies from 14 countries that showcases the cooperative contribution to peace-building and conflict resolution around the world.

Find out how Buranga Cooperative contributes to healing wounds in Rwanda after the brutal genocide. 16

women from both sides – survivors and perpetrators - make their living by producing crafts and build a future of unity by working together. Find here the full [report](#).



Re-Engineering Cooperatives – A capacity building workshop.

A capacity building training on "establishing and strengthening federations" that took place at CIC Insurance Group in Nairobi - Kenya.

March



The #coops4dev Staff Annual Review Meeting in Nairobi.

The #coops4dev staff met in Nairobi Kenya for their Annual Review Meeting (ARM) that took place from the 4th – 8th march, 2019 at The Cooperative University of Kenya. This was the 3rd meeting and the first of its kind to be held in Africa since the inception of ICA-EU partnership project entitled “Co-

operatives in development – people-centered businesses in Action”.

The ARM usually aims at bringing together the ICA-EU staff together to discuss the concluded year, exchange on the pillars of their work, network groups training and deliberate on the next year’s action plan.



Aroundtheworld Coop documentary in Rwanda. Coproriz-Ntende, the story of a sustainable cooperative business.

In March 2019, the Aroundtheworld coop team were in Rwanda to document and bring us the interesting story of COOPRORIZ-Ntende. A rice-growers cooperative that started in 2003 and has a membership of 3,761 – among which 1,311 are women. We can say that COPRORIZ-Ntende story is one of the amazing stories on sustainable development with visionary

leaders and committed farmer members grow rice working on a huge marshland created by the government almost twenty years ago.

Catch more on the COOPRORIZ-Ntende impressive and innovative sustainable business from [here](#).



The 7th Policy Forum for Development (PFD) took place in Brussels from the 13th – 15th March, 2019. The forum saw 130 participants in attendance representing the civil society organizations (CSO), local authorities (LA), professionals and business associations, European Union (EU) Member States and EU institutions. PFD usually offers a platform to discuss key issues affecting the global development agenda and corresponding EU policies. In this year's edition, participants took stock of the role of partnerships in the 2030 Agenda implementation and specifically the environmental and climate components, as well as the Multiannual Financial

Framework (MFF) and the proposal for a new Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

The cooperative movement was well represented by policy officers from the four regions of International Cooperative Alliance; to exchange experiences and best practices on international development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Through its people-centered approach, cooperatives have been able to promote local and sustainable development in all regions and, therefore, contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDGs.



Africa Youth Commission Conference in Gambia

The ICA-Africa Youth Network President, Ms. Hilda Ojall participated in the 3rd General Assembly of African Youth Commission that took place from 23rd – 26th March, 2019 in Banjul - Gambia. The congress discussed youth empowerment across the continent through engaging the young leaders and youth development actors in crucial conversations around youth voices and youth friendly spaces for young people in Africa and how best to champion their own development agenda.

With the theme, *“the future is now, youth are not too young to lead”*, the youth once again called for active engagement and participation in policy and decision making processes at national, regional and continental levels and debated on youth development matters with particular focus on the inclusion and representation of young people in governance (civil, economic and political), peace and security and migration.



Harnessing the Power of Cooperatives to achieve Sustainable Development for all.

The Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of

Economic and Social Development (UNDESA) organized for an Expert Group

Meeting (EGM) from 26th – 28th March, 2019 in Nairobi Kenya. The EGM brought together a group of experts in cooperatives; to review and reflect on experiences and lessons gained since the International Year of Cooperative (2012), analyze to what extent previous plans of action have achieved their desired impacts and make policy recommendations in the changing global contexts in particular the 2030 Agenda. Specifically, the EGM focused on the role of cooperatives in providing universal health care and eradicating rural poverty.

International Cooperative Alliance was presented by Alliance Africa Policy Officer – Mr. Njuguna, who presented on the “Assessing the success of activities since the International Year of Cooperative”. The EGM also deepened the understanding of the relationships between the cooperative enterprise model and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and delivering the outcomes of the world summit on social development. The experts analyzed and policy recommendations that will inform the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the issue concerning cooperatives in social development in 2019.

April



Go Green Campaign 2.0

The ICA-Africa Youth Network and ICA-Asia and Pacific Committee on Youth Cooperation jointly celebrated the International Mother Earth Day from 21st to 23rd April 2019 by undertaking a **Go Green Campaign** across Asia, Pacific and Africa regions.

The Go Green Campaign 2.0 is a drive to plant trees and work on climate change (SDG #13) with the support of youth from the cooperative sector. This year, the Go Green Campaign was undertaken with the objective of protecting diverse flora species through ethical planting.



ICA-Africa Regional Director Dr. Chiyoge Sifa and Alliance Africa Agricultural Cooperative Organization (AAACO) Project Assistant Mr. Arnould ZOZO joined the National Cooperative Confederation of Rwanda (NCCR) staff during the opening of a new (AAACO) office for in Kigali, Rwanda on 29th April, 2019.

The AAACO office will be housed within the NCCR premises courtesy of the government of Rwanda's goodwill towards AAACO's operationalization and the

support of Dr. Augustin Katabarwa who is currently the Chairman of AAACO and NCCR. Dr. Sifa also paid a visit to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry - Rwanda, Mr. Michel SEBERA to discuss cooperative development in Africa. Mr. SEBERA said that his government was privileged to host the AAACO office in Rwanda and believed that it will improve and impact positively the agricultural sector and promote the cooperative movement in Rwanda and Africa as a whole.

May



ICA-Africa held to capacity building training workshops on policy dialogue and cooperative related themes and functioning and advocacy towards the EU delegations. The trainings were held on 28th and 29th May as provided in the “Cooperatives in Development – People Centered Business in Action” ICA-EU project partnership.

Under the policy dialogue and cooperative related themes, the training targeted youth who were trained on cooperative

entrepreneurship. While functioning and advocacy towards the EU delegations training aimed at exposing participants to the structures, the role and potential collaborations with the EU delegation. Some of the few feedbacks from the participants pointed out that the training outlined some good strategies that will encourage youth to form cooperatives to curb the unemployment rate on the continent.



ICA-Africa and Aflatoun International signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to work together to empower children and young people with social, financial, and entrepreneurial skills across the African continent. Working towards the same values and principles, the two organizations believe that the collaboration can increase the capacity of youth in cooperatives and promote social and financial education for young people. The MoU was agreed and signed between the two parties on 28th May, 2019 during the 6th Technical Committee of the Ministerial Cooperative Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The two parties saw the need to improve the opportunities of business, job creation and wealth accumulation through cooperative enterprises for youth. ICA-

Africa Regional Director, Dr. Chiyoge Sifa stated that “Youth are a priority if we want to achieve our ambitious inclusive growth agenda focusing on social transformation, sustained economic growth and integration. The cooperative space enables access to economic opportunities for more young people and the African countries, while protecting the vulnerable.” While Aflatoun International CEO, Mr. Roeland Monasch highlighted that “We need to equip youth in Africa with the skillset and technical know-how that they will require to be employed or become successful entrepreneurs. Sustainable scalable models are a key priority for Aflatoun. By partnering with the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa we will be able to reach many more young people with essential social, financial and entrepreneurial skills.”



*ICA-Africa Members Forum
Held in Harare, Zimbabwe.*

ICA-Africa President Mr. Japheth Magomere chaired his first ICA-Africa members' forum since he was elected as the president in October 2018. ICA-Africa members' forum brings together its members in a participatory format to discuss and deliberate on the presented

agenda, share, exchange and build consensus on measures to be taken. The members' forum was held on 29th during the 6th Technical Committee of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference in Zimbabwe.



*Promotion of Good Health and Well
Being in Africa through Cooperatives.*

ICA Africa organized a cooperative conference on Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3) on good health and well-being that was held on 30th of May and followed by the 6th Technical Committee of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (TCAMCCO) in Harare, Zimbabwe. The conference theme was '*Promotion of Good Health and Well Being in Africa Through Cooperatives*' and aimed at sensitizing the African cooperative movement and government officials in charge of cooperatives on the need to address the SDG 3 agenda through the

promotion of health and wellbeing cooperatives on the continent.

The participants were enriched by presentations on health, well-being and health Insurance cooperatives - case studies from Europe, Americas and Africa Regions. This was followed by the 6th TCAMCCO forum where government officials responsible for cooperatives in their countries presented their country progress reports and concluded the conference with some six recommendations.

June



We Effect East Africa organized a training at The Cooperative University of Kenya on '*Leadership for Change in Cooperatives Management*' in June 2019.

The training equipped the participants with knowledge and skills for articulating

organization vision, mission and strategic thinking skills capable of crafting and formulating strategic community plans. ICA-Africa was represented by the Policy Officer – Mr. Arnould Zozo.

July



ICA-Africa Meeting with the European Union Delegation to Kenya.

ICA-Africa team led by the Regional Director Dr. Chiyoge Sifa and some of its members in Kenya (Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives and The Cooperative University of Kenya), paid a visit to the European Union Delegation

(EUD) in Kenya for a bilateral meeting to introduce ICA-Africa, its activities and members. This was also an opportunity to follow up with the EU delegation on the involvement of cooperatives in the review of the EU roadmap for 2018-2021.



Institutional Assessment.

ICA-Africa President Mr. Japheph Magomere accompanied by Mr. George Magutu - Board member and representatives from our members The Cooperative University of Kenya (CUK)

and Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperative (KUSCCO) during a participatory organization octagon assessment done by our partner We Effect East Africa.

August



ICA-Africa organized for a mentors' training workshop of the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) program. GCE is a mentoring program framed within the International Cooperative Alliance – European Union (ICA-EU) partnership with the aim of providing support to youth ambassadors interested in setting up cooperatives.

Mentors from Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA), Zimbabwe National Association of Housing Cooperatives (ZINAHCO), Junior

Achievement Uganda and Junior Achievement Zimbabwe received a high-intensity training that was inspired by training materials from the Cooperative College UK and Cooperatives Europe's CoopStarter 2.0 Erasmus+ funded project. The mentors are now ready to take on their next task which is mentoring the youth ambassadors from their specific countries by stimulating an enabling environment for innovative and youth-led cooperative start-ups.



Revamping Multipurpose Cooperative Societies towards a Stronger Marketing Performance.

Eswatini Farmers Cooperative Union together with Cooperatives College of Eswatini collaborated in hosting a Multipurpose cooperative annual event called 'ESWAFU INDABA'. The event focused on encouraging economic growth in the sector to improve the livelihood of cooperative members.

ICA-Africa was represented by Mr. Mike Duru, the President of Zimbabwe National Association of Housing Co-operatives (ZINAHCO) and the ICA-Africa Vice President. Participants discussed the importance of promoting multipurpose cooperative societies to leverage existing market opportunities, creating forums for idea sharing, building direct linkages with financiers, policy

makers in government, market players and other stakeholders.

September



Cooperative Knowledge Sharing and Promotion of Cooperative Trade Linkages.

The ICA-Africa President, Mr. Japheth Magomere accompanied by the Regional Director, Dr. Chiyoge Sifa and other cooperative leaders from the Africa region participated in a Seminar on Business Promotion among Cooperatives and Trade Fair that held in Xiamen-China from 6 -10th September, 2019.

The seminar was organized by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives and provided platforms for sharing cooperative knowledge and promoting cooperative trade linkag



Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), through its Cooperatives Unit (COOP) and its Office for Japan (ILO Tokyo), organized for the 10th edition of the ILO-JCCU African Cooperative Leaders' Study Tour that took place from 6-14th September, 2019 in

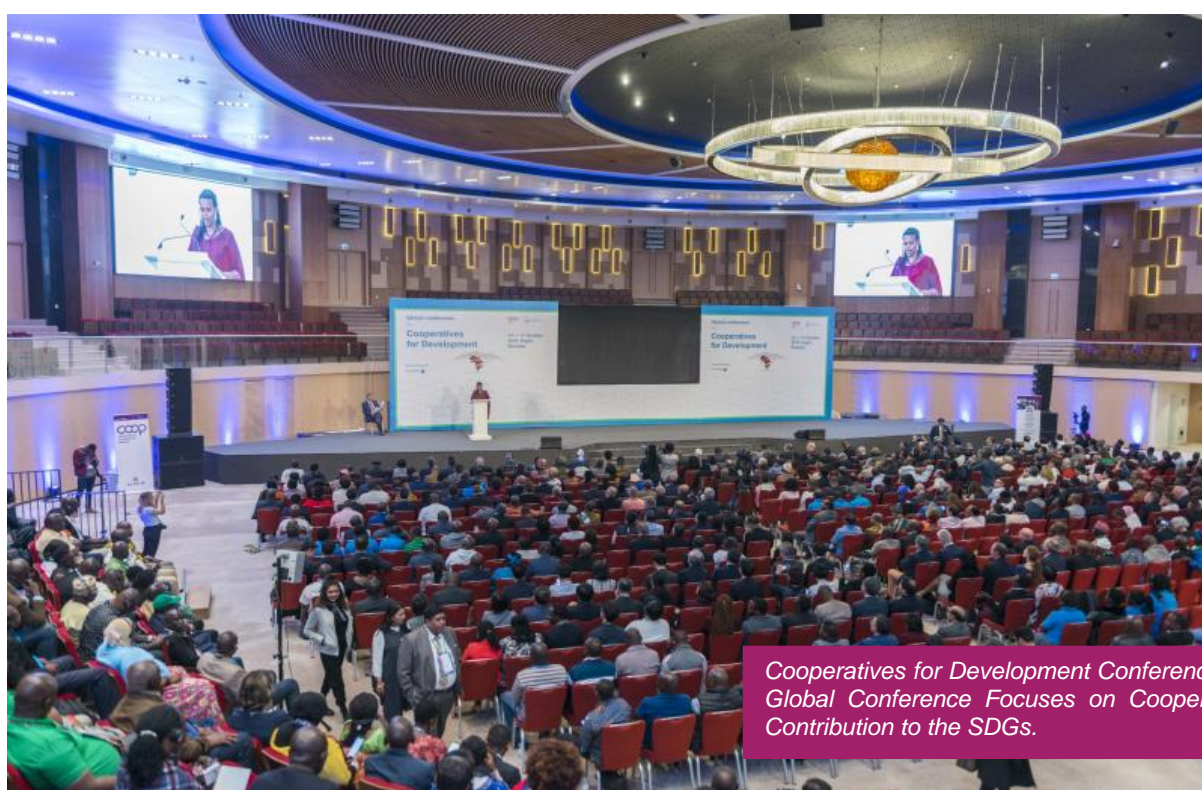
Tokyo - Japan. The joint study tour encourages exchange of knowledge and experiences as well as exploring possible cooperation between African and Japanese cooperatives. This year's study tour edition saw participation of cooperative leaders from Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania.



The Regional Director Dr. Chiyoge Sifa and representatives from Uganda Cooperative Alliance, Somalia Union Cooperative Movement and Ghana Cooperatives Council were among the 45 delegates that participated in the International Cooperative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO) 2019 General Assembly in Seoul-Korea from 25 – 27th September, 2019.

The role of agricultural cooperatives was re-emphasized as farmers help secure food for 7.5 billion people worldwide during the assembly. The ICAO Chairman Byeong-won Kim stated that agricultural cooperatives have an important role to protect & support farmers, provide them multifunctional services and in the process build an equal, fair and sustainable society.

October



Cooperatives for Development Conference: ICA Global Conference Focuses on Cooperatives' Contribution to the SDGs.

More than 1,000 participants from 94 countries met in Kigali- Rwanda from 14th – 17th October, 2019 for the ICA's Global Conference 'Cooperatives for Development'. [Read More.](#)

Cooperatives in Africa continue to enjoy some structured collaboration and partnership with external actors and the global cooperative movement. Such partners have collaborated with

cooperatives in the provision of low-interest credit for capital-intensive investments; marketing of cooperative produce, particularly through fair trade arrangements; facilitating the creation of suitable legal and policy environment for cooperative enterprises; and facilitating educational and training programmes in cooperatives, among others. Read the full Message of our President Mr. Japheth A. Magomere from [here](#).



Gender Equality Committee of the International Cooperative Alliance Seminar.

The Gender Equality Committee of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA-GEC) organized a seminar themed cooperatives and feminism in the 21st century on the 12th October, 2019. Gender equality is an agenda that most cooperatives are promoting around the world as evidenced from some of the case studies shared during the seminar.

Presenting a research on the role of cooperatives in driving gender equality in Africa, the ICA Africa Gender and Research Committee Chairperson, Prof Esther Gicheru, highlighted that – for sustainability of cooperatives, it is necessary that gender issues

are addressed in order to correct the existing imbalances. Stating that women make up 43% of membership in cooperatives across the region while they are only responsible for only 25% of leadership positions. She called for both men and women to work together to in implementation of gender related policies and also come up with successful strategies that will address gender issues in the cooperatives.

Prof. Esther Gicheru was also approved as a member of the ICA Gender Equality Committee to represent the Africa region during its General Assembly before the seminar.



Alliance Africa Agricultural Cooperatives Organization meet in Kigali.

On October 14th 2019, the Alliance Africa Agricultural Cooperatives Organization (AAACO) members met in Rwanda to discuss on the progress and implementation of the AAACO plan. The members are positive with

the plan and views it as a tool that will contribute to solving of problems that hinder the smooth functioning of the agricultural cooperative sector in African countries.



Committee on Cooperative Research Meeting.

Research is a powerful tool for improving people's lives. On 14th October, 2019 in Rwanda, researchers and cooperative movement leaders together with stakeholders from different countries met to discuss the current situation of cooperative research in

Africa, the future agenda for developing research and collaboration between the research community and the cooperative movement in the Africa region and exploring ways of re-energizing the committee on cooperative research Africa network.



Working Together to Promote Development of Farmers and Cooperatives.

ICA-Africa and Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) the world's leading fertilizer manufacturing & marketing cooperative signed a memorandum of understanding to promote coop-to-coop business, organization of cultural integration

programs and trainings to empower cooperative farmers from the two regions.

The agreement was signed on 15th October, 2019 at a dinner organized by IFFCO during the just concluded ICA Global Conference in Rwanda.



The ICA-Africa Members' Forum in Kigali.

The ICA Africa held a Members' Forum on 11th October, 2019 in Kigali -Rwanda. During the forum, the Cooperative Resource Information Management Solutions (CRIMS) was presented to the members as well as the Alternative Dispute Resolution for Cooperative (ADRC). The regional by-elections were also held during this forum.

ICA President Dr. Ariel Guarco was in attendance and gave a message to the Africa cooperative movement. He emphasized his commitment to development and visibility of the cooperative movement in Africa region stating

that hosting of the ICA Global Conference in Rwanda was part of that commitment. Such a global conference on the continent allows African cooperatives to exchange experiences with other cooperatives around the world and also send a message to the governments in the region.

ICA Africa held a by-election during its members' forum held on the 11th October, 2019 in Rwanda. There were seven vacant positions – one position for the women representative to the regional board, one position for the member at large for the regional board and five positions for trustee members.



ICA Africa By-elections.



Ms. Eve Tepsy Ntseane from South African National Apex Cooperative (SANACO) was elected as the first women representative to the ICA Africa regional board while Mr. Lawrence Bale from SANACO

was elected as the members at large.



With the trustee members positions, (from left top) Mr. Youssef Hosni from Office du Développement de la Coopération (ODCO) was elected to represent the north Africa subregion, Mr. Akinola Akinrera nominated by Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (CFN) representing west Africa, Mr. Motshwari Mashbane from Botswana Cooperative

Association (BOCA) representing the southern Africa, (bottom left) Mr. Litho Rugendabanga from COOPEC Nyawera representing central Africa then Prof. Esther Gicheru nominated by Cooperative Insurance Company of Kenya (CIC) representing East Africa.



Knowledge Sharing Workshop.

ICA-Africa in collaboration with International Cooperative Alliance - Asia & Pacific, and ICA Asia & Pacific Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions organized a knowledge sharing workshop at the University of Lay Adventists of Kigali on the 14th October 2019.

The workshop titled 'Inter-Regional Workshop on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions' show cased best cases from educational institutions in Japan, Malaysia, Lesotho and South Africa.



Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: Ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Regional Director Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa and other Africa cooperative leaders participated in an international workshop on Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: Ensuring that no one is left behind, organized by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

(DESA) in collaboration with the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives.

The forum took place in Brasil from 28 - 30th October, 2019 and saw exchange of experiences and substantive knowledge on cooperatives in Latin America and Africa.

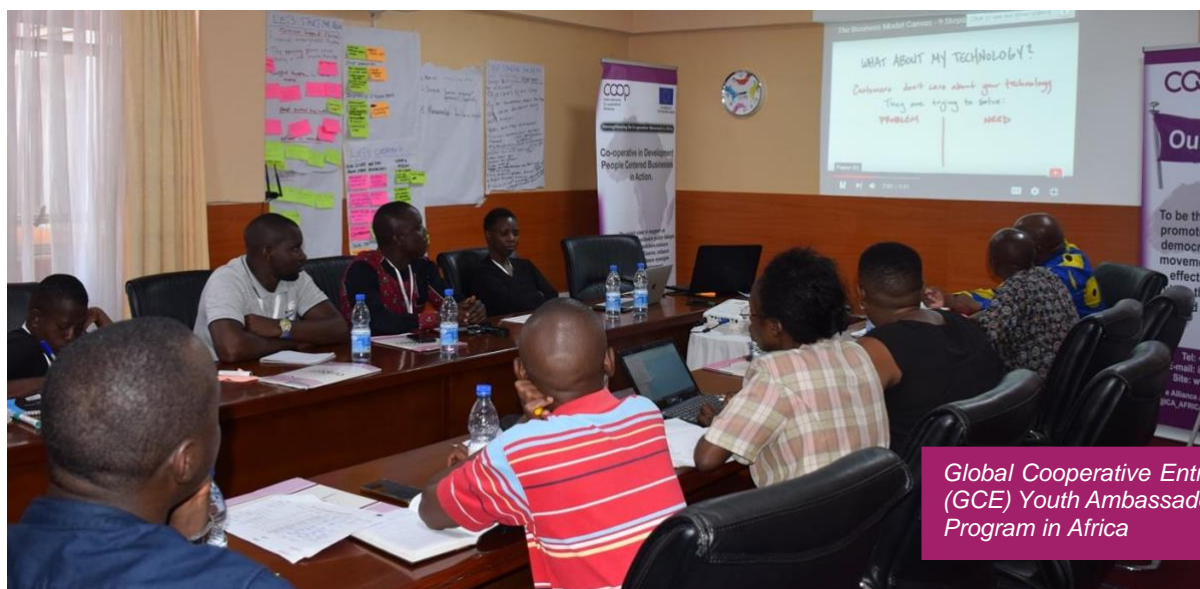
November



Proposal: cooperatives model law for Africa.

Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa met with the Pan-African Parliamentary Monetary and Finance Committee to discuss possible

partnerships, among them the cooperatives model law for Africa.



The Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) Youth Ambassador Training took place in Kampala-Uganda from the 25th to 28th November 2019. The GCE program once again is an experimental mentoring program aiming at providing support to youth ambassadors interested in setting up a cooperative. The program builds on a 3-steps methodology of mobilizing youth and together solve community needs by setting up cooperatives. It is framed within the ICA-EU Partnership (#coops4dev) and inspired by Cooperatives Europe's CoopStarter 2.0 Erasmus+ funded project.

The training was officiated by Uganda Cooperative Alliance General Secretary Mr. Ivan Asiimwe acknowledging that the GCE program initiative will indeed support young cooperative start-ups in the region. Africa has the youngest population in the

world with 60% of the entire continent population aged below 25 years. Mr. Asiimwe highlighted the role and importance of cooperatives in helping young people take their lives in to their own hands thus a great potential for further development. "By having such training in place, our young generation will fully take advantage of the cooperatives enterprise model option in solving a number of challenges that they face", he added.

This training saw participation of six youth ambassadors from Uganda and Zimbabwe helped by eight mentors from the same countries. The mentors had received a training earlier in August and they are significant in the program since they will be giving the ambassadors a continuous support on - how to start a cooperative and how to mobilize youth around their ideas.

December



ICA-Africa President, Mr. Japheth Magomere sharing his cooperative experiences with participants at the The

3rd International Conference for Cooperative Housing that took place in Cairo- Egypt.

Additional Details and Information.

ICA President's historical trip to East Africa

Kenya - <https://www.ica.coop/en/newsroom/news/youth-and-women-participation-cooperative-can-transform-movement-kenya>

Uganda - <https://www.ica.coop/en/newsroom/news/what-are-opportunities-strengthening-cooperatives-uganda>

Rwanda - <https://www.ica.coop/en/newsroom/news/enhancing-rapid-development-through-cooperatives-rwanda>

Tanzania - <https://www.ica.coop/en/newsroom/news/tanzanian-government-engages-put-more-efforts-reviewing-countrys-cooperative-laws>

Ethiopia - <https://www.ica.coop/en/newsroom/news/opportunities-cooperative-movement-ethiopia-and-its-development>

The Cooperative Toudarte: a story of the Amazigh women's life success and empowerment - <http://aroundtheworld.coop/morocco/the-cooperative-toudarte-a-story-of-the-amazigh-womens-life-success-and-empowerment/>

Cooperatives and Peace: Strengthening Democracy, Participation and Trust Report - https://coopseurope.coop/sites/default/files/COOPS%26PEACE_research_2019_Cooperative%20Europe-WEB.pdf

Coprporiz-Ntende, Rwanda: the story of a sustainable cooperative business - <http://aroundtheworld.coop/rwanda/coprporiz-ntende-rwanda-the-story-of-a-sustainable-cooperative-business/?fbclid=IwAR2Q4cm4ojUaJcOJZN9lCekhNHhrWw9KvHb7k4MIC1k-kp-xhPfEx3-SQyQ>



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