

International Co-operative Banking Association
Association Internationale des Banques Coopératives
Asociación Internacional de los Bancos Cooperativos



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE BANKING ASSOCIATION
Sectoral Organization of the International Co-operative Alliance



GENERAL PRESENTATION



International Co-operative Banking Association
c/o Crédit Coopératif
BP 211 – 92002 Nanterre cedex
Tel : + 33 (0)1 47 24 90 88 – Fax : + 33 (0)1 47 24 86 42
<http://icba.coop> - <mailto:sandrine.rodriques@credit-cooperatif.coop>

According to the International Co-operative Alliance Statement of co-operative identity, a co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

The 7 co-operative principles are:

*Voluntary and open membership
Democratic member control
Member economic participation
Autonomy and independence
Education, training and information
Co-operation among Co-operatives
Concern for Community*

A co-operative bank is a financial entity which belongs to its members, who are at the same time the owners and the customers of their bank. Co-operative banks are often created by persons belonging to the same local or professional community or sharing a common interest. Co-operative banks generally provide their members with a wide range of banking and financial services (loans, deposits, banking accounts...). Co-operative banks differ from stockholder banks by their organization, their goals, their values and their governance. In most countries, they are supervised and controlled by banking authorities and have to respect prudential banking regulations, which put them at a level playing field with stockholder banks. Depending on countries, this control and supervision can be implemented directly by state entities or delegated to a co-operative federation or central body.

Even if their organizational rules can vary according to their respective national legislations, co-operative banks share common features:

- **Customer's owned entities:** in a co-operative bank, the needs of the customers meet the needs of the owners, as co-operative bank members are both. As a consequence, the first aim of a co-operative bank is not to maximise profit but to provide the best possible products and services to its members. Some co-operative banks only operate with their members but most of them also admit non-member clients to benefit from their banking and financial services.
- **Democratic member control:** co-operative banks are owned and controlled by their members, who democratically elect the board of directors. Members usually have equal voting rights, according to the co-operative principle of "one person, one vote".
- **Profit allocation:** in a co-operative bank, a significant part of the yearly profit, benefits or surplus is usually allocated to constitute reserves. A part of this profit can also be distributed to the co-operative members, with legal or statutory limitations in most cases. Profit is usually allocated to members either through a patronage dividend, which is related to the use of the co-operative's products and services by each member, or through an interest or a dividend, which is related to the number of shares subscribed by each member.

Co-operative banks are deeply rooted inside local areas and communities. They are involved in local development and contribute to the sustainable development of their communities, as their members and management board usually belong to the communities in which they exercise their activities. By increasing banking access in areas or markets where other banks are less present – SMEs, farmers in rural areas, middle or low income households in urban areas - co-operative banks reduce banking exclusion and foster the economic ability of millions of people. They play an influential role on the economic growth in the countries in which they work in and increase the efficiency of the international financial system. Their specific form of enterprise, relying on the above-mentioned principles of organization, has proven successful both in developed and developing countries.

ICBA PRESENTATION

The International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) is a sectoral organization of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). Founded in 1895, the International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organization which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide.

The ICBA mission is to contribute to the sound development, growth and competitiveness of co-operative banks in the marketplace by defending their interests and by promoting worldwide their important contribution to the economic and social well-being of the population and their communities.

Objectives of ICBA:

- to facilitate the promotion at the international and regional levels of the distinctive co-operative values of co-operative banks and of the advantages of using them over other banks;
- to facilitate and encourage the exchange of information amongst members on key co-operative banking issues and foster inter-cooperation in the finding of solutions;
- to support regional committees and their members, individually or collectively with specific challenges;
- to encourage inter-cooperation with other types of co-operatives and various bodies of the ICA.

ICBA ACTIVITIES

- the organization of statutory meetings (including two executive committee meetings)
- the holding of a yearly seminar to address specific issues for co-operative financial institutions
- the provision of relevant information to and promote, on a worldwide basis, co-operative banking groups, and their major contribution to socio-economic development
- upon request of members, to make appropriate representation and lobby towards national or international groups and authorities, in close collaboration with those organizations asking for support.

ORGANIZATION

The organs of ICBA consist of:

- The Ordinary Members' Meeting and the Executive Committee
- The Regional Members' Meeting and the Regional Committees

Executive Committee ICBA

 Jean-Louis BANCEL ICBA President Vice-President Crédit Coopératif, France	 Gideon MIRIUKI ICBA VICE PRESIDENT President ICBA Africa CEO, Co-operative Bank of Kenya, Kenya	 Miquel CIRBIAN ICBA VICE PRESIDENT President ICBA Americas President, Jesus Nazareno Cooperativa, Bolivia
 B.S. VISHWANATHAN ICBA VICE PRESIDENT President ICBA Asia Président, Co-operative Bank of India, India	 Etienne PFLIMLIN ICBA VICE PRESIDENT President ICBA Europe President, Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel, France	 Mohamed BENCHAABOUN ICBA VICE PRESIDENT President ICBA Middle East President, Banque Centrale Populaire Morocco

Members of ICBA Executive Committee

Alban D'AMOURS President Caisses Desjardins, Canada	Milena BLAGOEVA CEO Central Cooperative Bank, Bulgaria	Carlos HELLER President Banco Credicoop Cooperativo Limitado, Argentina
Ranjith HETTIARACHCHI President and CEO Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, Thailand	P. A. KIRIWANDENIYA Sanasa Development Bank, Sri Lanka	Eugeniusz LASZKIEWICZ President National Union of Co-operative Banks, Poland
Suk-yun WOO CEO Int ZI Banking dept National Agricultural - Cooperative Federation, Korea	Associated Member Pete CREAR CEO World Council of Credit Unions Inc.	Associated Member Iain MACDONALD CEO International Co-operative Alliance