

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON COOPERATIVES AND EMPLOYMENT

Shanghai, China, 15-19 May 2006

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 15 MAY 2006

STUDY TOUR

Participation in the opening ceremonies of the Modern Agricultural Expo Conference followed by visits to successful employment-creating cooperatives in Wuxi, Shanghai

TUESDAY, 16 MAY 2006

10.00 – 10.45 OPENING

Messages by:

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA)

Keynote Address by the host country (China)

Self introduction of participants

10.45 - 11.15 Tea/coffee break

11.15 - 12.00 SESSION 1: COOPERATIVES AND EMPLOYMENT

What can cooperatives do to create quality jobs in rural and urban areas, including the informal economy to reduce poverty? How can cooperatives take a more active role to contribute to a fair globalisation? How can cooperatives create equal employment opportunities for indigenous peoples, women and youth? Jobs for post-conflict and crisis situations: How can cooperatives mobilize local resources and community participation to create jobs, eliminate tensions and make rehabilitation and transition smooth and satisfactory?

Presentation by Ian McPherson on “From self-help and survival initiatives to sustainable livelihoods of communities”

Open Discussion

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

14.30 – 15.15 SESSION 2: DIVERSIFYING EMPLOYMENT CREATION POTENTIAL OF COOPERATIVES

Assessing various forms and types of cooperatives for various types of jobs, including worker co-ops and worker buy-out modalities.

15.15 – 15.45 Tea/coffee break

15.45 – 17.30 SESSION 3: PUTTING ILO RECOMMENDATION 193 INTO ACTION

How to put ILO Recommendation No.193 into action to intensify job creation through cooperatives Inputs reflecting practices from participating countries on the actual work of governments, employers' and workers' organizations in creating favourable environment for cooperatives to create sustainable jobs.

WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2006

09.30 – 10.00 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS ROUNDUP

Presentation of brief reports on focus group discussions by chairpersons/facilitators (15 min. each)

10.00 – 12.30 SESSION 4: CONCURRENT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

ON POLICIES, MECHANISMS, PROGRAMMES AND TARGETS TO CREATE MORE AND BETTER JOBS IN ORDER TO REDUCE POVERTY BY HALF BY 2015

GROUP I: COOPERATIVES AND JOB CREATION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS, INCLUDING THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

What type of sustainable activities could cooperatives engage in to generate jobs in rural and urban settings? What size of cooperative activity is needed in order to generate considerable number of jobs, and where will necessary capital/resources come from to generate such business activities; what role could microfinance play? What cooperatives can do to “formalise” jobs in the informal economy? What are the obstacles and challenges, mechanisms to overcome such obstacles; how to implement and promote such activities?

GROUP II: COOPERATIVES AND FAIR GLOBALISATION

What is the role of agricultural cooperatives in promoting job creation in both developed and developing countries in response to WTO’s reduction of agricultural subsidies, and in enhancing Fair Trade practices? How can service cooperatives in developing countries provide employment opportunities in response to jobs lost to out-sourcing trends in developed countries? How can trade unions/cooperatives collaborate to save jobs in the wake of worker’s buy-outs?

GROUP III: COOPERATIVES AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, WOMEN AND YOUTH

What are the obstacles to employment creation for indigenous peoples and what are the mechanisms required to overcome them? How can indigenous peoples be actively engaged to participate in cooperatives that will provide them with culturally appropriate employment? What cooperatives can do to eliminate gender inequalities in employment and occupation and create equal employment opportunities for women and youth?

GROUP IV: COOPERATIVES AND JOB CREATION IN POST-CONFLICT AND CRISIS SITUATIONS

How can cooperatives mobilize local resources and community participation to create jobs, eliminate tensions and make rehabilitation and transition smooth and satisfactory? What conditions in post-conflict situations make job creation more challenging and how can cooperatives overcome these? What lessons need to be learned from the cooperatives’ involvement in the Tsunami recovery and reconstruction in South East Asia?

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 SESSION 5: GROUP REPORTS

Presentation of group reports

15.30 – 16.00 Tea/coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 SESSION 5 (CONTINUED)

Discussion and inputs to group reports and compilation of reports

THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2006

GROUP DISCUSSION OF GOOD PRACTICES FOR JOB CREATION BY COOPERATIVES

09.00 – 10.30 SESSION 6: COOPERATIVES AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Chair: ACYF

Presentations by:

ILO, Youth Employment Network

China, How ACFSMC works with ACYF

South Africa, Support to youth cooperatives by Umsobomvu Youth Fund

Singapore, Trade union-cooperative partnership in creating jobs for the youth

Discussion: Lessons learned and replication of good practices

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00 SESSION 7: WORKER COOPERATIVES AND WORKER BUY-OUTS

Chair: TBA

Presentations by

Spain, The Mondragon experience

Japan, Worker cooperatives

Argentina and Brazil, Worker buy-outs

Discussion: Replicability of Mondragon in developing countries and lessons learned from the Argentina and Brazil experiences on worker buy-outs

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30 SESSION 8: COOPERATIVES AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT

Chair: TBA

Demonstration of photos, publicity and film and video shows from successful cooperative and job creation projects in rural areas from around the world

15.30 – 16.00 Break

16.00 – 17.30 SESSION 9: CREATING QUALITY JOBS AND IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

Chair: TBA

Presentations by:

Egypt, Cooperatives and decent job creation in urban informal economy

Mongolia, The rural informal economy and cooperatives

Germany, Shared service cooperatives

Bangladesh, Rural electric cooperatives

Discussion: Lessons learned and best practices.

FRIDAY, 19 MAY 2006

GROUP DISCUSSION OF GOOD PRACTICES FOR JOB CREATION BY COOPERATIVES (CONTINUED)

09.00 – 11.00 **SESSION 10: COOPERATIVES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS**
Chair: TBA

Presentations by:
Italy, Social cooperatives
The Philippines, Indigenous Peoples' Cooperatives
India, Women and Dairy Cooperatives
Czech Republic, Cooperatives saving jobs in transition

Discussion: Lessons learned and replication of best practices

11.00 – 11.30 Break

11.30 – 13.00 **SESSION 11: COOPERATIVES AND MICRO-FINANCE**
Chair: TBA

Presentations by
Sri Lanka - Cooperatives fighting against the Tsunami through micro finance
Indonesia - Cooperative response to recovery and reconstruction
Thailand - Creating jobs in rural areas through SCCs
Turkey - Cooperatives and micro finance in rural areas

Discussion: Lessons learned and best practices

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 **SESSION 12:: PANEL DISCUSSION**

What can UN and cooperative development agencies do to assist cooperatives in creating more and better jobs and in taking more active role in poverty reduction?

Panellists: (to be identified)
Facilitator/Chairperson: (to be identified)

16.00 – 16.30 Break

16.30 – 17.00 **CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING**