

PRESS RELEASE

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2019 Rochdale Pioneers Award goes to Howard Brodsky and Kim Byeong-won

The 2019 Rochdale Pioneers Award has been presented to Howard Brodsky, of CCA Global Partners, and Kim Byeong-won, chair of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) of the Republic of Korea. The award is the highest honour the ICA bestows. It aims to recognise, in the spirit of the Rochdale Pioneers, individuals or organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the global cooperative movement.

ICA President, Ariel Guarco, presented the award to the two cooperators. He said: *“The ICA received many nominations for the Award this year. The two individuals who were chosen stood out because of their commitment to cooperatives throughout their life, and their important contribution to the cooperative movement and cooperative development not only in their own countries but also globally.”*

Howard Brodsky is chair, co-chief executive and co-founder of CCA Global Partners, one of the largest cooperatives in the Americas. Its businesses span from floor covering retail, to childcare, sport retail and interior design. Together, CCA Global divisions serve 20,000 childcare centers across the United States and over 1 million family-owned businesses in 4 countries. He formed Cooperatives for a Better World to further promote cooperative awareness, inspire, and educate cooperative audiences.

Also recipient of the award, Dr. Kim Byeong-won leads Korea’s agricultural cooperative federation. Dr. Kim began his career at a member cooperative in 1978, and after serving as president of a primary agri-cooperative and NACF Food Grains, he was elected Chairman of NACF in 2016. He has also been serving as president of ICAO and is a current board member of the ICA. He was awarded a Presidential Medal for agricultural development by the Korean government.

The two cooperators received the accolade during a gala dinner at the ICA Global Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

In 2000, the ICA Board established the Rochdale Pioneers Award and since has recognised 16 recipients. This year the ICA received 22 nominations for the Award.

The stories of these inspiring cooperators were thoughtfully analysed and the ICA selected Howard Brodsky and Byeong-won Kim for their distinction.

Previous winners include former Co-operatives UK chief executive and ICA president, Dame Pauline Green; the Plunkett Foundation; and late IHCO President, Dr José Carlos Guisado.

ENDS

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About the International Cooperative Alliance

The International Cooperative Alliance is a non-profit international association established in 1895 to advance the cooperative social enterprise model. The International Cooperative Alliance is the voice for cooperatives worldwide, representing more than 310 cooperative federations and organisations across 109 countries.

12% of people in the world are cooperators. Through its membership, the International Cooperative Alliance represents 1,2 billion people from any of the 2.94 million cooperatives worldwide. The largest 300 cooperatives in the world have combined annual revenues of 2.16 trillion USD (2015) and 280 million people around the world (10% of the employed population) secure their livelihoods in cooperatives, either through direct employment or by organizing through a cooperative.

The International Cooperative Alliance works with global and regional governments and organisations to create the legislative environments that allow cooperatives to form and grow. Towards media and public, the International Cooperative Alliance promotes the importance of people-centred cooperatives' values-based business model. Operating from a global office in Brussels, Belgium, the International Cooperative Alliance is organised with four Regional Offices (Europe, Africa, Americas, and Asia-Pacific), and eight Sectoral Organisations (Banking, Agriculture, Fisheries, Insurance, Health, Housing, Consumer Cooperatives and service and industry cooperatives).