



# Global Conference and General Assembly

Co-operatives: Putting People  
at the Centre of Development

13 to 17 November 2017

Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia

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## Preliminary programme

February 2017

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HOSTED BY



[WWW.MALAYSIA2017.COOP](http://WWW.MALAYSIA2017.COOP)





Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia • 13-17 November 2017

At our most interactive gathering to date, co-operators are invited to choose from our unique and diverse programme offerings to create a conference experience that aligns with your professional goals. Leave with knowledge, practical tools, skills, new contacts, business leads, and inspiration.

## EXPERIMENT

Delegates will participate in how-to workshops facilitated by experts and leave with practical skills and tools.

## EXPLORE

Participants will discover co-operative stories and culture through film screenings, exhibitions and demonstrations.



## LEARN

Through debates, panels and lectures, conference delegates will learn about developments in trends and co-operative issues.

## NETWORK

Delegates sharing a geographic region, sector of activity or co-operative interest will come together in an informal setting to make new contacts and share ideas.

# PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

## Monday 13 November 2017

09.00 - 12.00 Alliance Strategy Session

09.00 - 12.00 Statutory Meetings Sectoral Organisations and Thematical Committees

**12.00 - 14.00 Break for lunch**

14.00 - 17.00 Alliance Board Committees

14.00 - 17.00 Statutory Meetings

## Tuesday 14 November 2017

09.00 - 12.00 Alliance Board Meeting

09.00 - 12.00 Statutory Meetings Sectoral Organisations and Thematical Committees

**12.00 - 14.00 Break for lunch**

14.00 - 17.00 Alliance Board Meeting

14.00 - 17.00 Statutory Meetings

**17.00 - 18.00 Break**

18.00 - 20.00 Opening Gala Dinner *Ministerial addressess and seated dinner*

## Wednesday 15 November 2017

09.00 - 10.30 Opening Keynote Plenary

**10.30 - 11.30 Break**

11:30 - 12:30 Global Conference

**12.30 - 14.00 Break for lunch**

14.00 - 17.00 Global Conference

**17.00 - 18.00 Break**

18.00 - 20.00 Networking at Expo

## Thursday 16 November 2017

09.00 - 10.00 Opening Plenary - Rochdale Awards and Debate

**10.00 - 10.30 Break**

10:30 - 12:00 Global Conference

**12.00 - 13.30 Break for lunch**

13.30 - 15.00 Global Conference

**15.00 - 15.30 Break**

15.30 - 17.00 Closing Plenary - By Dr. Gro Brundtland

**17.00 - 18.30 Break**

18.30 - 20.00 Closing Reception Walking dinner - finger food

## Friday 17 November 2017

09.00 - 10.00 General Assembly

**10.00 - 11.00 Break**

11:00 - 12:30 General Assembly

**12.30 - 14.00 Break for lunch**

14.00 - 15.00 General Assembly

**15.00 - 16.00 Break**

16.00 - 17.00 General Assembly

## Wednesday 15 November 2017

### 09:00-10:30 OPENING PLENARY

A renowned speaker will set the scene for the conference by addressing a topic of relevance to the future of the co-operative movement.

### 10:30-11:30 BREAK



#### 11:00-12:30 LEARN

##### Co-ops for 2030: Models of co-operative engagement in the SDGs

Co-operatives all over the world are engaged in initiatives that will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. But what is the scope of the co-operative contribution? Who is taking action and how are they communicating their progress? Join this session to learn about the online platform 'Co-ops for 2030', a tool for co-operatives to learn about the SDGs, share their initiatives to achieve them and engage as a united movement. This session will present some of the successful initiatives showcased on 'Co-ops for 2030' and how those organisations integrate the SDGs into their corporate strategies.



#### 11:00-12:30 EXPERIMENT

##### Raising capital the co-operative way

Big and small, new and old, from banking to agriculture to handicrafts, co-operatives share a common challenge: securing reliable streams of capital while guaranteeing member control. Join this workshop on raising capital for start-up and growth activities and explore innovative mechanisms and strategies with peers. Experts from the financial co-operative industry, as well as co-operative development professionals, will guide brainstorming and share expert tips on how to identify the most appropriate capital instruments for co-operatives.



#### 11:00-12:30 NETWORK

##### Young co-operators meetup

Animated by the Alliance's Youth Network, this session will look into the critical factors that can boost the participation of young people in co-operatives.



#### 11:00-12:30 EXPLORE

##### Screening: 'Cooperatives build a better world' campaigns from around the world

Co-operatives seem to be a best-kept secret. Reputational surveys suggest that people would prefer to work and shop at co-operatives, yet general awareness about the model remains low in many countries. The Alliance's Global Co-operative Marketing Campaign aims to spread the message and promise of the co-operative advantage to new communities. See how national campaigns are being rolled out in more than a dozen countries around the world and how you can help amplify the co-operative message in yours.

### 12:30-14:00 LUNCH BREAK



#### 14:00-15:30 LEARN

##### The co-operative potential for the refugee crisis and new migrations

Migration is one of the biggest challenges of our time with large economic, social and environmental consequences. Increased instability and political turmoil promise to only intensify the need for action. What role can co-operatives play to improve the livelihoods and security of migrants and refugees? How are co-operatives already making a difference? Join this session to learn about the state of refugee and migrant communities in the world, the potential for co-operative engagement and initiatives on the ground.



**14:00-15:30 EXPERIMENT**

**Advocacy 101: How to make your case to policymakers**

The co-operative movement requires an enabling legal and regulatory environment to flourish. To make this happen, co-operators need to better advocate their cause to governments at the local, national, regional and global level. How can they be most successful? At this workshop, participants will learn how to approach policymakers, how to craft an effective position and how to manage an integrated lobbying strategy.



**14:00-15:00 NETWORK**

**Meet and Greet with the Alliance Board candidates**

Alliance members will have a chance to meet the candidates for the Alliance Global Board before elections at the General Assembly. Your questions are welcome!



**14:00-16:00 EXPLORE**

**Screening: 'Actual World, Possible Future'**

This documentary from political scientist, researcher and filmmaker Barbara Allen explores the lives and works of Elinor and Vincent Ostrom, renowned American political economists whose ideas on governing the commons echo the co-operative approach to economics and self-governance. Learn five lessons from the Ostroms and explore case studies of co-operative commons governance from around the world. An in-depth look at the experience of Korean co-operatives and social enterprises will follow the film.



**15:00-16:00 EXPLORE**

**Screening: PBS Series Visionaries on co-operatives**

The Visionaries Series is highlighting the power of co-operatives both in the U.S. and around the world. This one-hour documentary follows the work of the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA), celebrating 100 years of co-operatives that build a better world through seven co-op stories featuring members in Seattle, Western Massachusetts, Mississippi, and international projects in Mozambique and East Timor. With the seven co-operative principles binding these unique and diverse businesses, we can see that co-ops truly build a better world.



**15:00-16:00 EXPLORE**

**High Tea**



**15:30-17:00 LEARN**

**The Collaborative Economy:**

**What it is and why co-ops should care**

Since the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, we hear more and more about different approaches to business, different ideas about our globalised economy. Is this a backlash against the failures we saw nine years ago? What's new about this collaborative economy and how can co-operatives leverage this trend to our advantage? This session will explore the

emerging business models that respond to peoples' needs and how co-operatives can demonstrate their longevity in providing sustainable livelihoods grounded in solidarity, democracy and equity.



**15:30-17:00 EXPERIMENT**

**Integrating gender equality into your co-operative**

Co-operatives are certainly more attuned to gender issues than their corporate counterparts, but much more can be done to make co-ops an equal space for both men and women. How can you make gender equality a reality within your co-operative? What types of activities can help mainstream gender sensitivities into your business? Attend this workshop for practical tools.



**16:00-17:00 NETWORK**

**Networking hour:**

**Governmental organisations as co-operative partners**

Many officials from national governments and international organisations are working every day to make the administrative and regulatory environments more favourable to co-operatives. Come and meet colleagues from around the world that share the same interests and challenges.



**16:00-17:00 NETWORK**

**Co-op to Co-op Trade Networking Hour**

Meet and greet fellow co-operators interested in developing business contacts. This is an occasion for informal conversation with other participants that are also interested in trade opportunities among co-operatives.



**16:00-17:00 EXPLORE**

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Co-operatives seem to be a best-kept secret. Reputational surveys suggest that people would prefer to work and shop at co-operatives, yet general awareness about the model remains low in many countries. The Alliance's global co-operative marketing campaign aims to transform co-operative employees into ambassadors for the model – spreading the message and promise of the co-operative advantage to new communities. See how these campaigns are being rolled out in more than a dozen countries around the world and how you can help amplify the co-operative message in yours.



**16:00-17:00 EXPLORE**

**High Tea**

**17:00-18:00 BREAK**

**18:00-20:00 NETWORKING EVENT AT EXPO**

## Thursday 16 November 2017

### 09:00-10:30 PLENARY

#### Assessing our sector: Growth, challenges and achievements

Every year the World Co-operative Monitor offers insight to the size and importance of the co-operative economy. This session will see the presentation of the 2017 edition, followed by a debate on the challenges co-operatives face when growing in order to keep competitive, maintain member engagement and the co-operative identity. To close the session, we will take a look at our own achievements and acknowledge those who made the growth of co-operatives possible, by presenting the 2017 Rochdale Award for outstanding contributions to the co-operative movement.

### 10:00-10:30 BREAK



#### 10:30-12:00 LEARN

##### The enabling environment for co-operatives: Where are we now?

Step by step, little by little, co-operators are creating a more favourable regulatory and political environment for co-operatives. How are different countries faring? What legal hurdles remain? Experts will share the latest developments in the field of co-operative law by discussing, analysing and presenting research results on the state of legal frameworks around the world. Participants will also be invited to discover Cooplex, the global database of co-operative legal texts.



#### 10:30-12:00 LEARN

##### Measuring the movement: The path towards better statistics on co-operatives

When asked how many co-operatives exist in the world, there is no clear answer, only rough and incomplete estimates. In order to accurately demonstrate the economic, social and environmental power of the co-operative economy, statistics on co-operatives must improve in terms of quality, comparability and access. How can this be achieved? Learn what statistics on co-operatives look like today, how data on co-operatives can be better collected and analysed and what work will be achieved before the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians revisits the issue in 2018.



#### 10:30-12:00 EXPERIMENT

##### Leadership building for effective Board participation

Before agreeing to join a Board of Directors, it is important to understand the responsibilities involved and how to ensure your participation is impactful. How can you be the best possible Board member? What does an effective Board look like? Current and future Board members, join this workshop to learn how to be a more successful co-operative leader.



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The Visionaries Series is highlighting the power of co-operatives both in the U.S. and around the world. This one-hour documentary follows the work of the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA), celebrating 100 years of co-operatives that build a better world through seven co-op stories featuring members in Seattle, Western Massachusetts, Mississippi, and international projects in Mozambique and East Timor. With the seven co-operative principles binding these unique and diverse businesses, we can see that co-ops truly build a better world.

### 12:00-13:30 LUNCH BREAK



#### 13:30-15:00 LEARN

##### Co-operatives and the future of work

As people-focused businesses, co-operatives are implicated in the evolving nature of employment. Co-operatives have a unique relationship with the concept of work, as many co-operatives have worker-members or producer-members, rather than direct employees. They are also being explored

as a means to facilitate the transition of workers from the informal to the formal economy. What are the main challenges regarding human resources management in co-operatives? What are the future trends in employment with the advent of new technologies? How are co-operatives promoting decent work within their organisations and in global supply chains? Come to this session to have these questions answered.

### 13:30-15:00 LEARN

#### Governments as co-operative advocates

Governments can be a key partner for the co-operative movement, as they shape the environment in which co-operatives form, develop and flourish. This session will provide a unique opportunity to learn about how governmental entities contribute to the development of the co-operative movement worldwide and areas for potential future action. Participants will also exchange experiences regarding the administrative management of co-operative policy at the national level.

### 13:30-15:00 LEARN

#### Multi-stakeholder co-ops: Innovations in co-operative governance

A hallmark of the co-operative difference is collective ownership and democratic control. These attributes require a specific kind of governance rooted in democracy and equity. However, as businesses respond to opportunities, trends and challenges in the market, we see an emergence of multi-stakeholder co-operatives: businesses that bring together different stakeholders – workers, producers, and consumers – into one enterprise. How does co-operative governance need to adapt to meld their seemingly disparate interests? How can the innovations in these emerging governance models strengthen co-operative governance overall?

### 13:30-15:00 EXPERIMENT

#### Communicating the co-operative message: Practical tips and tools

Targeted communications are a powerful means to strengthen the co-operative identity and mobilise members. How can co-operatives hone more effective strategies for communicating to members and the community? Join this workshop to find out.

### 13:30-15:00 NETWORK

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### 13:30-15:00 EXPLORE

#### High Tea

### 15:00-15:30 BREAK

### 15:30-17:00 PLENARY

#### Closing keynote plenary – Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland

Sustainable development is at the very core of co-operative enterprises. As a model of business based on ethical values and principles, with an overarching goal to provide for the needs and aspirations of their members, co-operatives play a pivotal role in responding to local community needs and objectives. In an inspiring closing address, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland will discuss the implications for building a more sustainable future as a united movement. In such roles as Minister of the Environment for Norway, Norwegian Prime Minister (the youngest person and first woman to hold the office), political activist and Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Brundtland gained international recognition as a leader on key global challenges, the environment, human rights and sustainable development.

### 17:00-18:30 BREAK

### 18:30-20:00 CLOSING RECEPTION