

3 December

Parallel sessions: Living Our Cooperative Identity with...

4.1 – With Rewarding Jobs

To maintain the cooperative movement's vision of fair and ethical economic development to ensure a bright future and rewarding jobs, more autonomy and active participation for workers, cooperatives must adapt to the changes brought about by computer systems and AI. They demonstrate a high level of innovation in creating new forms of work and working relationships. How will the relationship between unions and cooperatives look like in the future? What lessons can we learn from these new approaches?

Facilitator: Osamu Nakano Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU), Japan

Panelists: Anna Biondi, Deputy Director, ILO Actrav (Live from Switzerland)

Youngmi Choi, Life Magic Care Cooperative, Republic of Korea

Anne Laure Degris, Director, SMart, Belgium

Mirai Chatterjee, President, SEWA Cooperative Federation, India

Bahman Abdollahi, President, Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, Iran

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).

4.2 – With Accessible Health and Social Services

There are few issues that unite people around the world more than health care and health-related social services, especially under a global pandemic. Cooperatives have excelled in both fields and offer a unique alternative to the debate between public and private services. What innovative approaches have been implemented to face the growing cost of health care? How are cooperatives meeting the growing needs of both aging populations and vulnerable people? What might a cooperative program reflecting the future of care look like? How can the cooperative movement contribute to making health a priority for all?

Facilitator: Dr. Carlos Zarco, President, IHCO, director, Fundacion Espriu, Spain

Panelists: Hotaka Hara, Former Board Member, Health and Welfare Cooperatives Federation, Japan

Aeng Min, Executive Director, Korea Health Welfare Social Cooperative Federation, Republic of Korea

Giuseppe Milanese, President, Confcooperative Sanità, Italy

Gilberto Quinche, Coomeva, General Manager of the Health Sector, Colombia

Nancy Heinrichs, NorWest Coop Community Health, Executive Director, Canada

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).

4.3 – With Enhanced Food Security

The relationship between food production and consumption is being tested in many ways – climate change, drought, flooding, refugee displacement, and rural depopulation. Particularly acute is the disruption of the chains of production and distribution. This, however, has provided a renewed role to cooperatives engaged in agricultural production. How do cooperatives address new ways to ensure production in food systems? How does this contribute to building sustainable, ethical and inclusive value chains?

Facilitator: Musa Sibandze, President, Eswatini Farmers' Cooperative Union, Eswatini

Panelists: Toru Nakaya, President, JA Zenchu, Japan

Guilherme Brady, Chief of Unit, Family Farming Engagement and Parliamentary Networks, FAO, Italy, Rome

Seunghyun Cho, Assistant Research Fellow, NH Economic Research Institute at National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Republics of Korea

Simona Cavazzutti, President, Confederation of Rural Cooperatives of Paraguay – CONCOPAR, Paraguay (Pre-recorded)

Aline Mugisho, Executive Manager, Innovative Youth in Agriculture Project (I-Youth), Nigeria

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).

4.4 – With Affordable Housing and Energy

Access to affordable housing and affordable energy are closely linked. Cooperatives have a role to play in the provision of both. Can housing cooperatives be instrumental in providing clean, affordable energy to their members? Are there opportunities for collaboration with cooperatives in the energy sector?

Facilitator: Alexandra Wilson Retired CEO of The Agency for Co-operative Housing, ICA Board Director, Canada

Panelists: Dirk Vansintjan, President, RESCoop.eu, Belgium (Pre-recorded)

Aaron Thornell, Customer and Member Manager, The Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative (OREC), Canada (Live from Canada)

Guido Schwarzendahl, Managing Director, Bauverein Halle & Leuna eG, Germany

Sido Hyemin Kim, Chairperson, Minsnail Housing Co-op, Republic of Korea

Ana Dzokic, Founder of Elektropionir Energy Cooperative, Belgrade, Serbia (Live from Serbia)

David Avina, Assistant Director Member Services, Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB), United States (Live from USA)

Thomas Boisvert St-Arnaud, Founding Member and President of Poisson Entêté cooperative, Canada

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).

4.5 – Within the Social and Solidarity Economy

Cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy actors working with local governments in delivering services within society constitute an engine to improve local and territorial development. It is recognized that the social and solidarity economy (SSE) create wealth in urban and rural areas and contributes to sustainable local and territorial development. What are the best practices in such partnerships? How do we develop policies and programs that are favourable to the social and solidarity economy?

Facilitator: Laurence Kwark, Secretary General, Global Social Economy Forum, Republic of Korea

Panelists: Ilcheong YI, Senior Research Coordinator, UNRISD, Switzerland

Victor Van Vuuren, Director, ILO, Switzerland (Live from Switzerland)

Elisa Carolina Torrenegra Cabrera, Co-president of the IFSSE / Executive director, Gestarsalud, Colombia

Ariel Guarco, President, ICA, Argentina

Alexandre Roig, President, INAES (National Institute of Association and Social Economy), Argentina (Pre-recorded)

Béatrice ALAIN, Executive Director, Chantier de l'économie sociale, Canada

Stéphane Pfeiffer, Vice Mayor in charge of housing, employment, SSE, and innovative economies, City of Bordeaux, France

Watch the recording of the session [here](#).