

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES

The year 2012 has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Year of Co-operatives, highlighting the contribution of cooperatives to socio-economic development, particularly their impact on poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration.

With the theme of **“Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World”**, the Year seeks to encourage the growth and establishment of cooperatives all over the world. It also encourages individuals, communities and governments to recognize the agency of cooperatives in helping to achieve internationally agreed upon development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals

The United Nations General Assembly **Resolution A/RES/64/136** encourages all member States, the United Nations and all relevant stakeholders to take advantage of the IYC to promote cooperatives and raise awareness of their contribution to social and economic development and promote the formation and growth of cooperatives.

As the global voice of co-operatives, the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is also seeking to leverage the year 2012 to raise public awareness of of the invaluable contributions of co-operative enterprises to poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration. The Year will also highlight the strengths of the co-operative business model as an alternative means of doing business and furthering socio-economic development.

The UN's goals for the IYC are to:

- Increase public awareness about co-operatives and their contributions to socio-economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Promote the formation and growth of co-operatives.
- Encourage governments to establish policies, laws and regulations conducive to the formation, growth and stability of co-operatives.

The International Year of Co-operatives, or IYC, celebrates a different way of doing business, one focused on human need not human greed, where the members, who own and govern the business, collectively enjoy the benefits instead of all profits going just to shareholders.

Having an International Year of Co-operatives provides an opportunity to captivate the attention of national governments, the business community and, most importantly, the general public on the advantages provided by the co-operative model.

DGRV PARTICIPATION

As active participants in promoting co-operatives in South Africa, DGRV will be involved in the following activities during the year 2012 aimed towards celebrating the International Year of Co-operatives:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
6th – 7 th July 2012	DGRV will participate in the International Day Of Co-operatives by showcasing projects where Where support has been extended by DGRV in Co-operatives enterprises.	Kimberley, Northern Cape
7 th September 2012	DGRV will be hosting in-house celebration Where a limited number of co-operative partners From South Africa and neighboring countries will Celebrates 2012 Year of Co-operatives	DGRV offices in Brooklyn