

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore National Co-operative Federation bags global award for championing the co-operative movement in Singapore

Singapore co-operative leaders join world co-operative leaders in launching the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives

SINGAPORE, 16 Nov 2011— The Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), which has championed the growth of the co-operative movement in Singapore for the past 30 years, has won an honourable mention award for the 2011 DotCoop Global Awards for Co-operative Excellence.

The biennial DotCoop Global Awards honour co-operatives and co-operative organisations worldwide with a strong commitment to the co-operative business model. The Awards are presented by DotCoop, sponsor of the .coop domain name, which differentiates co-operatives from investor-owned businesses. The .coop domain is used by 750,000 co-operatives around the world serving 730 million members.

Ms. Dolly Goh, CEO of SNCF said: “We are extremely pleased with this global honour. It reflects Singapore’s commitment to the co-operative movement and SNCF’s efforts to champion co-operative enterprises formed by like-minded Singaporeans, particularly youths and seniors, as they come together to help themselves and each other.”

A Singapore delegation led by SNCF Chairman Mr Chan Tee Seng, and comprising International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Board member and Member of Parliament Mr Seah Kian Peng, SNCF CEO Ms Dolly Goh, and members of SNCF’s affiliates will be at the ICA General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico to receive the award on 18 November.

Launch of the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives

The Singapore delegation will also join fellow co-operative activists, world leaders and government officials from around world in Cancun to launch the United Nations (UN) International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) in 2012 on 18 November. Ms Dolly Goh will speak at the main plenary session on how SNCF will leverage on the UN IYC to raise the awareness, profile and understanding of the role and contributions of co-operatives in Singapore.

Officially declared by the UN at its General Assembly on 31 October, IYC hopes to raise public awareness of the invaluable contributions of co-operatives worldwide towards the UN’s Millennial Development Goals like eradicating poverty, empowering people and providing employment.

Ms Goh adds, 'Co-operatives continue to have a relevant role to play in Singapore with socio-economic challenges like the rising cost of living and an ageing population. Forming co-operatives can be a self-sustaining way to deal with these challenges that also nurtures self-reliance. We are confident that with IYC as a platform, more people will know about the benefits of the co-operative model and like-minded people explore forming their own co-operatives and SNCF will be there to support them and champion the continued growth of co-operatives in Singapore.'

IYC will be officially launched in Singapore on 4 December by the Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat. Singapore will join the world in marking IYC with a series of celebrations involving more than 10,000 members of co-operatives in Singapore, which will educate the general public about the social value and impact of co-operatives in Singapore.

About Singapore National Co-operative Federation

The [Singapore National Co-operative Federation](#) (SNCF) is the apex body of Singapore's Co-operative Movement, and secretariat of the Central Co-operative Fund (CCF). Formed in 1980 with the aim of championing Singapore's co-operative movement, the apex body represents 99% of co-operative members in Singapore through its 70 affiliated co-operatives. Today, the Movement boasts a base of more than 1 million members.

SNCF aims to promote and develop co-operatives as sustainable enterprises that address social and economic needs through the co-operative principle of self and mutual help, so as to foster a more resilient society. SNCF is an affiliate of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU). It enjoys co-operative relationship with the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other international and regional bodies.

For more information on SNCF and the Singapore Co-op movement, visit www.sncf.org.sg

About DotCoop

[DotCooperation LLC \(dotCoop\)](#) is the sponsor of the .coop domain and responsible for management of the .coop registry and verification of registrants. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the [National Cooperative Business Association](#), a U.S.-based national, cross-industry membership association.

About International Co-operative Alliance

[International Co-operative Alliance](#) is an independent, non-governmental association which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, ICA has 258 member organisations from 96 countries, representing approximately 1 billion individuals worldwide.

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