

building
co-operative
futures

4th Annual International Youth Conference
24-27 May 2006
Manchester & Rochdale, UK

Co-operating Out of Poverty Can Co-ops Save the World?

Dates for Your Diary - 24 to 27 May 2006

Welcome to the Building Co-operative Futures Conference 2006. The International Co-operative Youth Conference comes to the United Kingdom. The Co-operative College, with support from the UK co-operative movement, is hosting the conference in Manchester and Rochdale, the birthplace of the international co-operative movement.



Manchester is a vibrant, active city with over 60,000 students. It is a city that never sleeps and one that you'll never forget. Accommodation is at the Youth Hostel Association Manchester in Castlefield. This is right in the heart of the regenerated city centre, buzzing with students and nightlife.

It's a unique opportunity to learn from each other

The conference will:

- show what co-ops are doing to make a difference to people's lives by helping them out of hardship and towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- give people the opportunity to swap ideas and stories of co-operation in action.
- highlight just how diverse the global co-operative movement.
- show how young people have made a difference and are getting involved.



So What's the Theme About?

As co-operators we know, and can see daily, that co-ops transform people's lives, lifting and keeping them out of poverty. Whether it's through:



- providing fair prices to producers in developing countries that we can then buy as Fair Trade products.
- providing electricity to 20 million people in rural areas of Bangladesh.
- creating credit unions and microfinance helping people save and borrow.

In one way or another - co-ops are making a difference

The conference will start with registration from 3pm on Wed 24 May and finish early evening on Sat 27 May with a farewell event.

The conference will comprise activities, workshops, plenary sessions, key note speakers and include social events as well as study visits and time to sightsee and shop.



Did you know?

- In the US, co-ops account for 28% of all agricultural output.
- Over 250 young people have attended the last 3 BCF conferences.
- The Shoe Shiners Co-operative in Uganda has grown from 5 founder members to over 500.

A billion people live in extreme poverty, earning less than \$1 a day. Collective action through co-operatives offers the most effective tool for ending poverty. All over the world people are working together to create co-operative organisations in order to earn better incomes, educate their children and prevent disease.

Register your interest by emailing bcf@co-op.ac.uk and for further information visit www.co-op.ac.uk or bcics.uvic.ca/youthzone

the Co-operative Group



the co-operative college



Saskatchewan Co-operative Association



The Cooperative Foundation