

## ICA HOUSING MET WITH THE SHE PROJECT

Singapore, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007

On 17 October, the ICA Housing held a seminar on **“The role the Co-operative Housing sector can play in combating climate change”**, with the aim of sharing world experiences and knowledge.

More than 30 participants attended and key speakers were:

- **Dr. Johnny Wong Liang Heng** from the Singapore Housing Development Board which presented an overview of Singapore’s public housing portfolio administered by its board (di chi?);
- **Kent-Olof Stigh**, the President of HSB, spoke about the work that HSB is currently undertaking in connection with the Seminar’s theme. HSB Risksförbund, the Tenants’ Savings and Buildings Society, is the largest housing co-operative organization in Sweden with almost 50% of the portfolio. HSB develops, manages, offers services and represents housing co-operatives in Sweden;
- **Gun-Britt Mårtensson** as the Chair of the Council for Climate and Energy issues for the Swedish National Board on Housing drew on her experiences as Chair and on her involvement in HSB Risksförbund. The Swedish National Board on Housing - Boverket - is the central government authority for planning, management of land and water resources, urban development, building and housing under the Ministry of the Environment. Boverket monitors the function of the legislative system under the Planning and Building Act and related legislation and proposes regulatory changes if necessary. To ensure effective implementation Boverket also provides information to those engaged in planning, housing, construction and building inspection activities;
- **Gianna Perra**, Officer of Confcooperative International Relations Office, on behalf of the SHE coordinator, gave **an overview of the SHE project objectives**.

At the end of the seminar, the ICA Housing Board welcomed the idea of promoting the cooperation, strengthening the relationship and exchanging experiences with the SHE Team in future and of organizing a visit to some SHE buildings.

The seminar was held in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly that pointed out the Co-operative Commitment in combating climate change. In particular, the ICA General Assembly adopted a Resolution on: "Climate Change: Our Co-operative Commitment" submitted by UK Cooperative Movement.

*“The resolution calls on co-operatives to measure and reduce (pro rata) the greenhouse gas emissions that arise as a result of our activities; communicate with, inform and motivate members towards a lower carbon lifestyle; and use political influence and that of co-operative members to encourage our Governments to play a constructive part in the Kyoto negotiations now taking place, one that recognises the need for global emissions to reduce significantly and quickly”*

**What is the ICA Housing?** It is the apex body of the **worldwide housing cooperatives** and a sectoral organisation of the International Co-operative Alliance. Its members have joined to advocate their common interest in developing sustainable human communities based on co-operative principles and values. ( <http://www.icahousing.org/> )

