

## SUBMISSION ON CO-OPERATIVES

Co-operatives in their nature represent a break from traditional linear management systems and represent instead a more wholistic cycle of governance where decisions are reached in consensus. As this has a proven track record (Some co-ops are more than 20 years old and have been forces for employment creation in their communities) special recognition should be afforded to such co-ops and they should be given support in a number of areas:

Legal right to draw up their own rules of governance open to audit by Industrial and provident society.

Right to raise funds, apply for grants and assume quasi charitable status or be given special co-op status in law which recognises the benefits of working in a co-operative way.

Resource pooling-co-ops should be afforded a wealth of resources to ensure their survival-many are run on voluntary effort and this may not be sustained long-term.

Central co-operative forum where co-ops may interact with government agencies or have representation on same

Co-ops should be at forefront of job creation and given capital resources to roll out skilled share holders into free market economy.

Co-ops may operate within own economic structures where value is determined not by having a "job" but by having a role-using skills to their best advantage to serve community.

Many co-ops are creating their own energy, again showing new economic model coming from inside out-ie using resources already in the community not a net importer of resources.

Recognition as Social partners, highly evolved consensus driven change agents-ahead of the curve socially and economically.

Co-ops generate change through riding waves of energy and are therefore highly adaptable organisations that see human resources as ultimate resources for positive change-need for co-ops to contribute to strategic think tanks within government agencies-where structures are overly linear, one-dimensional, competitive, inefficient, costly and poorly managed.

Co-ops to piloted against state run agencies to see € for€ where new jobs may be created that are self-sustaining in the long term. FAS thinking archaic and behind the times.Co-ops should be given power ie resources representation and recognition to evolve economy in this present time of crisis-philosophical necessity.

Banks are not co-operative structures and should not be resourced. Credit unions are way forward. Moral imperative.