



PRESS RELEASE

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Anniversary Event „50 Years of IRU“ - International Raiffeisen Conference -

From 27 to 28 September 2018, the international cooperative world celebrated the 50th anniversary of the IRU - International Raiffeisen Union e. V. with a ceremony in the "Raiffeisenland" Rhineland-Palatinate.

More than 150 participants from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America as well as from the German cooperative organizations came together at Fortress Ehrenbreitstein in Koblenz. In addition to the 50th anniversary of the IRU, the 200th anniversary of the cooperative pioneer Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen was cause of the celebrations.

It was the first time in more than 20 years that a meeting of the two presidents of the international organizations IRU and ICA (International Cooperative Alliance) took place - Franky Depickere and Dr. Ariel Guarco. They talked about the specific development lines and missions of the international organizations. However, both representatives also made it clear that closer co-operation between all cooperative organizations is important, as central challenges for the future could best be addressed with joint forces.

Various presentations and discussions by and with German representatives such as the CEO of the German Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen Society Werner Böhnke, the Secretary of State Daniela Schmitt of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Rhineland-Palatinate and international IRU representatives from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America gave the festive event a colorful and varied frame. Despite all national particularities, it was always emphasized that the focus on the members is essential for cooperatives.

The day before, the IRU held its 14th General Assembly. Among other things, the committees were re-staffed and, in addition to confirmed President Franky Depickere, Dr. Eckhard Ott, Chairman of the DGRV -

German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Federation, was appointed new Vice President of the IRU. Also representatives from India and South Korea were newly elected to the Board of Directors, which now includes 14 nations.

As part of the festive evening event at Schloss Liebieg, around 120 representatives from the international Raiffeisen world used the opportunity for mutual exchange and networking.

"Koblenz is an important milestone for us," sums up IRU Secretary General Andreas Kappes (DGRV). "We have now started a process that is clearly focused on the future. We have succeeded in modernizing and revitalizing the IRU. We consider the organization an important voice for the worldwide dissemination of today's cooperative ideas and practices in the tradition of Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen. "

[About IRU - International Raiffeisen Union](#)

The IRU - International Raiffeisen Union is a worldwide voluntary association of national co-operative organizations whose work and ideas are based on Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen's principles - self-help, self-responsibility and self-administration. IRU was founded in 1968 as a registered association in Neuwied/Germany on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen. Today, the organization has 53 members in 33 countries and is headquartered in Bonn/Germany.

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