

Sharing Destiny – Moving Towards One World

OWW's 2012 theme asks:

How can we shape our lives to contribute to an equitable future for all?

"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future.

(This quotation and most of those that follow are from the Earth Charter)

This year looks back to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 with a conference **Rio+20** in June which will review progress and assess what the world and each of us needs to do now if we want to hand on a planet worth living in to future generations. One World Week 2012 offers us an opportunity to review the findings of the conference and plan the actions we can take to contribute to an equitable, harmonious and enduring future.

"Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility."

(United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon)

2012 is also the **UN Year of Co-operatives** and our theme offers opportunities to celebrate sharing and working together with others.

We all wonder what the world's coming to and what the future holds for our children. How can we cope with a warming world, declining resources, growing inequality and unrest?

"As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise."

Can our generation take steps needed now to ensure that future generations will be able to continue to access the resources they need to enjoy a fulfilling life? Are we prepared to embrace the changes that can offer hope and a future for all?

"To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one earth community with a common destiny."

We are all members of one world. Technology enables us to move around the globe for work and leisure and to communicate with ease. Trade moves us closer, reinforcing our growing interdependence. However, some are forced to move by poverty, conflict and persecution to seek refuge and make new homes. Living and working together with people of many cultures and abilities not only enriches our lives but enables us to find shared ways of surviving as one world.

Our economies, natural environment and societies are increasingly interwoven. Can we co-operate to move towards a global society, which adapts to change while:

- balancing the needs of nature, economy and society,
- respecting universal human rights, and economic justice, and
- building a culture of peace?

Do we accept that only by working together to meet these challenges can we share equitably the legacy we have received with our descendants?

"Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations."