

# John Wipf



**I am an actuarial technical consultant at Canadian Co-operative Association. I provide technical assistance (actuarial pricing, reserving, product design, develop administration and actuarial systems, develop business plans and program business models, assist with setting up new insurance companies and/or formalize existing informal schemes etc.) to co-operative and micro-insurance schemes in the Philippines, Indonesia, Ghana, and soon to include Cambodia, Vietnam and others.**

I was born and grew up in a Hutterite Colony (Baildon Colony, south of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan). I studied Grades 1-8 in a one-room schoolhouse in the colony. I left at age 19 (escaping with the clothes on my back), worked as a labourer on a farm for four years at Zehner Saskatchewan, went to Luther High in Regina for a year (at age 23), studied Biology for 2 years, but switched to Math and graduated from the University of Regina in 1988 (Governor General's Medal). After graduating, I was approached by Co-operators Life Insurance Company and encouraged to work for them and to write actuarial exams. I also studied again, getting a BSC in Computer Science, because I saw the tremendous potential of a joint career in computer science and as an actuary.

**I have a Filipina wife and an eighteen-month-old son. I am also interested in tree and organic farming.**

After taking time off in 1991-92 and backpacking through Europe and parts of Africa, I became interested in development work. In 1992 I was sent on a nine-month mission in the Philippines, to assist a small co-operative insurer there. Since then, I have worked on numerous projects in various countries, and hope to continue this while being based in the Philippines.