

### Who Should Participate

Green business leaders, educators, community leaders, environmentalists, journalists, and all those who have an opportunity to spread and make use of these ideas in the U.S. This seminar is an excellent chance to see first hand how cooperative business can work democratically and successfully over a long period of time.

### Excursions

Also included in the program is a dinner in San Sebastian, a visit to the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, a trip to the Aranzazu Monastery in the mountains, and visits to other areas in the unique Basque region.

### Scholarships

Our goal is to offer full and partial scholarships to participants who are committed to bringing the Mondragon model to their communities but who could not otherwise afford the costs of this seminar. We are actively seeking funds for this purpose. Empowering people to learn cooperative business models can help people build and rebuild their communities. Please consider donating to the Mondragon Scholarship Fund at Praxis Peace Institute.

### Accommodations

All participants will stay at the Hotel Mondragon, which is located in the historical center of the town of Mondragon. Daily breakfast and lunch will be included in the hotel and seminar prices. All rooms have individual A/C control, Wireless Internet access, satellite TV, and minibars. Single or shared rooms are available.

### Travel

**Adriatic Sunshine Travel** (800-247-5353) is our official travel agent. They have always provided the best fares for our conferences and we recommend booking through them. For those using miles, our destination city is Bilbao, Spain. We are coordinating arrival and departure times so that participants can ride our bus to and from the airport to our hotel in Mondragon.

### Registration

See enclosed registration form, or register online:

[www.praxispeace.org](http://www.praxispeace.org)

### Praxis Peace Institute

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Tel: 707-939-2973

[www.praxispeace.org](http://www.praxispeace.org)

*“Collective action is required to achieve individual self-realization.”*

*— William Greider*



PRAXIS PEACE INSTITUTE PRESENTS

# THE MONDRAGON PROJECT

September 9 – 15, 2012  
Mondragon, Spain

*“Knowledge must be socialized so that power can be democratized.”*

*— Don Jose Maria Arizmendiarieta*

## The Mondragon Project

Praxis Peace Institute and the Educational Department of the Mondragon Cooperatives in Spain are offering a 5-day learning experience at the Mondragon headquarters in the Basque Country. In addition to learning the history and values of Mondragon, we will experience first hand the inner workings of the most successful consortium of cooperatives in the world.

### Highlights include:

- In-depth presentations on all aspects of the Mondragon Cooperatives, including the history, culture, and ethics of the cooperatives.
- Economic and social democracy at Mondragon—how the cooperatives are organized.
- The role of Caja Laboral, Mondragon Cooperatives' bank and credit union.
- Visits to cooperative businesses, a youth cooperative, and an incubator for new products.
- Visit Mondragon University for a workshop with students and faculty of Team Academy, a cooperative entrepreneurship degree program.
- Social systems at Mondragon: pensions, healthcare, education.

- Mondragon projects in developing countries.
- Visit one of Mondragon's 14 Research & Development centers, the largest R & D complex in Europe.
- Discussion of how to transfer the Mondragon model to your community.

### Purpose

The purpose of the seminar is to learn about worker-owned and managed cooperatives from world experts in the field. With nearly 60 years of experience, the Mondragon Cooperatives now encompass 264 worker-owned businesses, employ about 100,000 worker-owners, and have production plants on four continents. Their democratic model of management and humanitarian commitment to social responsibility, are pivotal factors in their long-term success. Mondragon describes their organizational ethic as "an environment in constant economic, social and political evolution."

### Background

The Mondragon Cooperatives were founded in 1956 by Jose Maria Arizmendi, a Catholic priest, in the Basque town of Mondragon, Spain. Since its inception, the Mondragon experience has promoted the following principles: "democratic organization, participatory

management, inter-cooperation, education, the instrumental and subordinate character of capital, and social transformation." Their focus is on job creation, respect for the environment and social responsibility. The goal of the Mondragon Cooperatives is to constantly improve the quality of life and to strengthen community. Profit is not the primary motive at Mondragon.

Many of us know that the highly stressful and competitive business model that is foremost in America today is not the only way to do business. The importance of learning alternative economic structures will be vital for the 21<sup>st</sup> century if we are to realistically address the social and economic challenges ahead.

**IMPORTANT:** *We can bring a maximum of 25 people on this trip, so early registration is necessary. A deposit of \$500 will secure your place.*

### The Seminar

The seminar will include 5 days of presentations and tours of Mondragon businesses. There will also be a session at Baketik, the Basque Peace Center, which is located in the hills above Mondragon.

