



Management Report - February 2009



The Role of Credit Unions in Achieving Food Security 2020 Recognize

USC Canada Asia, with the technical support of ACCU and in collaboration with NEFSCUN organized the workshop on the Role of Credit Unions in Achieving Food Security 2020 on February 19 to 21 in Nepal. The workshop was participated by 40 representatives from SACCOS and INGOs in Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Savings and Credit Cooperatives have been contributing towards achieving food security at individual, community and national level since 1854. The workshop concluded that SACCOS could play a vital role in achieving food security because they are mostly operating in rural areas and serve poor farmers. There is a need to encourage SACCOS to create a link in its financial services to achieve food security because it is vital for sustaining the development of SACCOS and its members.

Credit Union Microfinance Experience Shared in CCA's Conference

Attended by some 200 SANASA (credit union) leaders across Sri Lanka, the Capacity Building through Cooperative Microfinance Conference organized by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and SANASA Development Bank on February 12-14 featured microfinance experiences of cooperatives in India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Asia as a whole. ACCU presented the Credit Union Microfinance Innovations (CUMI), a sustainable approach to microfinance. The presentation



underscored the empowerment of poor CUMI members in three dimensions: economic, political and social. Innovations of CUMI include the development of habit of savings, access to affordable credit, education and business development services. The E-Coop Mall was presented by Ms. Kruewan Chonlanai of the Credit Union League of Thailand. The e-coop is a project supported by ACCU in partnership with Agriterra. The e-coop mall provides opportunity for coop entrepreneurs to sell their products in global market.



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The 7:00 am Self-Help Group Meeting at BISCOL SACCOS



NEFSCUN-INGOs Meeting Aims for Cooperation in SACCOS Dev't. Activities

ACCU assisted NEFSCUN in organizing the first meeting with International NGOs supporting savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOS) in Nepal on February 23. Attending 18 INGOs share the same mission of reducing poverty in Nepal through SACCOS. The participants realized that a well-coordinated program for SACCOS could maximize the benefits to people through efficient delivery of programs (non-duplication) and maintenance of the true value of SACCOS in accordance with international credit union operating principles. The meeting concluded that NEFSCUN would need to share its development programs for SACCOS with INGOs in order for them to determine the areas that they can collaborate with each other. NEFSCUN will also have to discuss individually with INGO the kind of collaboration required.

Technical Assistance and Project Evaluation in Nepal

The February 23-25 mission of ACCU in Nepal provided technical assistance to finalize the Strategic Plan of NEFSCUN, reviewed the achievements of ACCESS and CUMI projects and discussed with the District Unions the need to strengthen the interlending system. The seven SACCOS participating in ACCESS branding agreed to meet every two months to review the progress and address issues that may hinder the achievements of the standards. Meanwhile, district unions agreed to implement CUMI to about 300 SACCOS. The interlending discussion with the district unions explained the importance of 'solidarity' for the growth and competitiveness of the interlending program. The district unions accepted the option of having a national policy on interlending to avoid competition within the movement.

Strengthening Credit Cooperatives in India



ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi visited the two members in India on February 1-8. In a two-day workshop organized by Development Promotion Group (DPG) in Chennai, ACCU explained the functions of credit union system at different levels i.e primary and federation. DPG has taken a big change of converting their self-help group into a cooperative. In MAFCOCS (Pune), ACCU presented the objectives and mechanics of the Stabilization Fund, ACCESS Branding and Credit Union Microfinance Innovations at the two-day Strategic Planning meeting of Maharashtra Federation of Co-op Credit Societies (MAFCOCS). The CEO also visited select societies catering to low-income poor. In particular, Buldan Urban Cooperative Society Ltd. serves 350,000 members, majority of whom are belonging to low income category.



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Youth Camp enlivens the Credit Unions in Petchaburi

ACCU works with 10 credit unions in Petchaburi to market credit unions to youth ages 35 below. Four brands of Youth Financial Products are introduced: Youthbee Savers for kids 12 below, Smarteen Savers for age 13-19, Gen X for age 20-35 and EASY Program for 20-35 out of school youth. CULT and ACCU have developed marketing materials to communicate the benefits of the product brands to young people and their parents. The Youth Camp organized on February 12-13 in Petchaburi was attended by more than 100 youth from different ages. The camp gives excitement to youth, credit union leaders, employees as well as public who became curious of the credit union involvement in the youth market. The partner credit unions believe that the Youth Camp will create a long-term impact in creating loyalty among youth and encouraging youth and their parents to be part of the credit union.

Congratulations! Anan Best Manager of the Cooperative Movement in Thailand



Anan Chatruracheewin (right) receives the 2009 Recognition Award as the Best Manager of the Cooperative Movement in Thailand. The award was presented by Dr. Chartchai Pukkayaporn, Deputy Minister of The Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry (left) on the Cooperative Day, February 26, 2009 at the Cooperative League of Thailand. Anan is the General Manager of the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand Ltd. (FSCT). He is managing the 2nd largest federation and cooperative movement in Asia.

4th Regulators Conference & CEOs Workshop

Confirmation letters for the participants of the 4th Regulators Conference on April 22-26, 2009 in Thailand are being sent out. The conference will be followed by the CEOs workshop on April 26. As an option, CEOs can also participate in the Exposure to Cambodia on April 27 to 30, 2009. The regulators conference will discuss the importance of separate laws and regulations for credit unions.

NACUFOK Exposure program

Acceptance of nominations to the 23rd NACUFOK's Friendship Program on March 30 - April 4, 2009 was closed on February 28, 2009. Registered participants are from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.