

January 2018

ASSOCIATION  
OF ASIAN CONFEDERATION  
OF CREDIT UNIONS

# Management Report

Highlights of the monthly activities of the ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN CONFEDERATION OF CREDIT UNIONS

## New CPD Director General Keen to see the Impact of Coops



ACCU greeted the Director General of the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) of Thailand Mr. Pichet Viriyaphan a Happy New Year on January 8. Appointed on the last quarter of 2017, Mr. Pichet is keen to see the impact of cooperatives on the improvement of lives of members. ACCU explained its 22 business solutions intend to build the capacity of cooperatives to ensure their ability to help members reach their financial destination. Mr. Pichit expressed his interest on Financial Literacy for members and Business Development Center. The materials were shared with CPD. CEO Elenita San Roque indicated that ACCU can assist CPD in promoting the curriculum to cooperatives in Thailand in collaboration with its members.

Furthermore, the team also paid a visit at the Cooperative Auditing Department where they met Ms. Chutamart Lipikarnthakol, Deputy Director General was acting for the Director-General. Ms. Chutamart assured of the cooperation of CAD in ACCU activities in Thailand.

ACCU enjoys a long outstanding relationship with CPD and CAD; in fact, CPD provides recommendation to the Immigration Office of Thailand to secure Visa and work permit of ACCU foreign staff.

## Bangladesh Coop Regulators Welcome Integration Strategy for Credit Unions



On January 6-11, ACCU organized the study visit to Thailand of 24 delegates the Department of Cooperatives of Bangladesh. ACCU presented the integration strategy of the Asian Credit Union movement, for which the regulators endorsed. The regulators appreciate the role of the national federation on self-regulation, recognizing that it will help them in ensuring the safety and soundness of credit unions. ACCU requested the help of regulators in providing back up regulations to strengthen the resolve of the federation in implementing financial and governance disciplines.

The regulators had learning sessions with the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives, Credit Union League of Thailand, Cooperative Promotion Department and Cooperative Auditing Department.



# Coop BDC Needs Support of Federation to Scale Up Members Enterprises



The impact assessment of the Business Development Center of Paglaum MPC in the Philippines on January 17 to 20 revealed the need for support from the federation on product research and development, national linkages, marketing and training modules designing.



With the latter taken care off, the staff of Paglaum MPC would be able to focus on business counseling, training and technical assistance.

Paglaum MPC was the recipient of two grant funds from the Global Women Leadership Network to establish a Business Development Center to help foster small businesses by providing educational resources. This impact assessment of the project aims to identify challenges and way forward actions to socially and economically empower women as contribution to Sustainable Development Goal of UN 1 – No Poverty and Goal 5 – Gender Equality.

The center is aimed to scale up members businesses to self-employment. Self-employment can provide quality jobs for people with situations that are not easily accommodated in the traditional workforce, e.g. poor people with limited education or work experience, people with disabilities, single parents, people with health restrictions, etc. Paglaum MPC has an outreach of more than 30,000 women who wanted economic upliftment by engaging in viable enterprise.

## **Audit Committee Must Acquire Necessary Competence for Effective Performance**





Participants of the Competency Training for Audit/Supervisory Committee held on January 28 to February 2, 2018 concluded that the Audit/Supervisory Committee must acquire necessary competence to perform their role effectively. Regardless of educational background, a certification training can be offered by the federation to ensure that the committee members can tailor fit their education and experience to suit the uniqueness requirements of credit unions.

The training provided skills and knowledge enabling the audit committee to perform their responsibilities in assisting the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The participants learned their roles and responsibilities for (1) the integrity of the credit union's financial statements, (2) compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, (3) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence and (4) the performance of the credit union's internal audit function and independent auditors.

The training was attended by 20 participants from the Philippines, Nepal and Bangladesh. They are audit committee, financial officers and auditors. The participants had an opportunity to visit St. Peter Credit Union.



## ACCU/DGRV and BOL Come together to Grow SCUs in Laos



On January 18, SACUDIL Manager and ACCU Management team has attended a technical meeting with Bank of Lao PDR and DGRV to design the SCU training curriculum for Directors and Managers.

As agreed in the December meeting, the three parties (ACCU/DGRV/BOL) will organize a training to increase the skills and knowledge of Directors and Managers in managing and growing the 30 SCUs. The meeting on January 18 reviewed the existing curriculum of the three parties.

It was concluded that the course curriculum will provide an overview of CU history and principles, roles and responsibilities, organization structure, comprehensive knowledge on SCU management and legislative compliance. The course will be the foundation for other competency courses for Board of Directors, Managers, Audit Committees and Credit Officers.



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