



**ASSOCIATION
OF ASIAN
CONFEDERATION
OF CREDIT UNIONS**

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Credit Union Experience Shared at Global Microcredit Summit

As panelist, ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi shared the credit union experience on the topic “Microfinance as a Vehicle to Create a Platform for Ownership of Financial Institutions by the Poor” at the Global Microcredit Summit 2011 in Valladolid, Spain on November 15-18. He emphasized that credit unions are member owned, controlled and managed cooperative financial institutions from the very beginning it was introduced more than 160 years ago in Germany. The Campaign brought together microcredit practitioners, advocates, educational institutions, donor agencies, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and others involved with microcredit to promote best practices in the field, to stimulate the interchanging of knowledge, and to work towards reaching the Campaign goals. The Campaign was re-launched to 2015 with two new goals:

1. Working to ensure that 175 million of the world’s poorest families, especially the women of those families, are receiving credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by the end of 2015.
2. Working to ensure that 100 million families rise above the US\$1.25 a day threshold adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP), between 1990 and 2015.

AgriFinance seen as Opportunity in the Agricultural Sector

The presentation made by ACCU on Credit Union Microfinance Innovation (CUMI) at the 30th International Vegetable Training Course of AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center on November 21 in Bangkok took the interest of the 15 attendees to introduce AgriFinance to their clientele. The attendees were comprised of agricultural and food scientists, project managers, technical supervisors and research and extension personnel, development workers and policy makers from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar and Brunei. ACCU collaborates with AVRDC’s East and Southeast Asia regional office, an international nonprofit research and development institution committed to alleviating poverty and malnutrition in the developing world through the increased production and consumption of nutritious and health-promoting vegetables. ACCU has been collaborating with AVRDC since 2010.



Rabobank Foundation Completes 1st Field Monitoring Visit of SACUDIL



SACUDIL (Savings and Credit Union Development in Laos) project staff welcomed Rabobank’s Director Susan Havermans and Asia Programme Manager Iris van der Velden on November 3 – 4 in Laos. The project staff provided presentation on the progress, challenges and future targets of SACUDIL. Susan and Iris visited Namthumtai SCU, a credit union that has met the registration requirements of the Bank of Lao PDR.

Further, three savings and credit unions have started computerization. The financial data entry and training of staff of SACUDIL and credit unions were held on November 14-22. The outcome of the computerization was reported to the Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) and the Bank of Lao PDR (BOL) on November 23. As partners in Laos, DPI and BOL are anticipated to carry out the SCU program in Laos after the project is winded up.

TECHNICAL MISSION IN NEPAL

Final Audit of ACCESS SACCOS



The final audit of the seven SACCOS undergoing ACCESS branding was carried out on November 22-26. Compared with the performance before ACCESS branding, tremendous improvements can be clearly measured in the participating SACCOS such as decrease and full provisioning of loan delinquency, almost 100% increase in assets and members, member oriented services, face lift of the office environment and adoption of comprehensive policies and procedures. ACCU will announce the SACCOS receiving accreditation in July 2012 and the accreditation certificate will be presented in September 2012.

TECHNICAL MISSION IN NEPAL

Marketing NEFSCUN to SACCOS and INGOs



ACCU made a presentation of the 17 credit union business solutions at a separate meeting of large SACCOS and INGOs (International Non-Government Organizations) on November 27. The meetings were aimed at increasing the membership of NEFSCUN and fostering collaboration with INGOs in the promotion and strengthening of SACCOS respectively. The presentation underscored that the solutions, now deployed in NEFSCUN, are opportunities both large SACCOS and INGOs can explore. Out of 11,000 registered SACCOS, 1,050 SACCOS are now members of NEFSCUN.

ACCESS Orientation for the 3rd Batch SACCOS



NEFSCUN is hopeful that the 44 Chairmen and managers of 22 SACCOS who attended the ACCESS orientation on November 28 would sign up soon in ACCESS. Facilitated by ACCU, the one day orientation generated heightened interest among SACCOS as NEFSCUN's can undoubtedly demonstrate ACCESS impact in the 7 SACCOS piloted. The immediate decision of the attendees to organize a visit the following day was prompted by the sharing of experience of the Chairmen of two pilot SACCOS. ACCESS accreditation, a regular program of NEFSCUN, is now getting very popular among SACCOS in Nepal.

NEFSCUN's Board of Directors attend CUDCC



The Board of Directors and Audit Supervisory Committee of NEFSCUN attended the four days Competency Course on November 29-December 2 facilitated by ACCU. The CUDCC module, meant for primary credit unions, was attuned to federation's level organizational needs. The Board agreed to complete the post course project work by January 2012. The post course are all meant to improve NEFSCUN's operations. Among others, the Board has to develop the Strategic Plan, policies on finance, human resources, and governance.