



ASSOCIATION  
OF ASIAN  
CONFEDERATION  
OF CREDIT UNIONS

# MANAGEMENT REPORT

October 2012



## CULROC's Visit to ACCU

ACCU welcomes the Board of Directors and senior staff of the Credit Union League of the Republic of China (CULROC) on its study tour to Thailand on October 2.

## SACUDIL Project Review



The Rabobank Foundation's Region Manager for Asia Iris van der Velden visited ACCU-SACUDIL project in Luang Prabang on October 5-6. She acknowledges the improvements made by the project particularly the registration of 6 savings and credit cooperatives, the increase in membership and savings mobilization. It was recognized that competent and motivated staff is important for the success of the project. On October 27-30 visit to Laos, ACCU CEO reviewed the project's HR policy and provided inputs on the preparation of a plan for the formation of a secondary organization for SCUs.

## 3 Phil Coops Renew Bronze ACCESS Brand

The three cooperatives in the Philippines: Manatal MPC, St. Martin of Tours Credit & Development Cooperative, and San Jose Koop received the 3rd year renewal of Bronze ACCESS accreditation presented at the 11th Coop Summit in the Philippines on October 11. ACCU has given accreditation to 8 credit unions: 3 in the Philippines and 5 in Nepal.



COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD





H.E The Hon'ble Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Royal Government of Bhutan (middle) graced the opening of the International Seminar. (Inset Photo) ACCU Manager Member Services E. San Roque presents token to the Director of DAMC Mr. Dorji Dhradhul.

## ACCU Supports the Promotion of Credit Unions in Bhutan

ACCU presentation on credit unions as a means for socioeconomic development of people at the international seminar on October 8-9 in Thimpu created an enthusiasm to introduce financial services to existing 16 rural cooperatives in Bhutan. Thus, the 8th recommendation of the seminar stated the establishment of linkage with ACCU to wit: *Difficult access to financial resources is also a major constraint in the development of cooperatives and learning from the vast experiences of ACCU (Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Union), it is recommended that Bhutan could gain and benefit from its association with the ACCU.* The conference organized by the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC), Ministry of Agriculture and Forests immediately contacted ACCU. As a first step, ACCU will host a study tour to Thailand for 9 technical staff of DAMC on November 25-December 11. The study visit is aimed at chartering a credit union development plan which will be implemented by DAMC, the regulatory body for cooperatives. The cooperative act in Bhutan was only passed by the parliament in 2009. DAMC recognizes the need to build its capacity to promote and strengthen cooperatives in Bhutan.

### Welcome to New Supporter members!

- Philippines:
  - Holy Cross Savings and Credit Cooperative
  - Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Employees' Multipurpose Cooperative
  - Manatal Multi-Purpose Cooperative
- Myanmar: Union of Monetary Co-op Limited (UMCL)
- India: Buldana Urban Credit Cooperative Society
- Koperasi Perdanajaya Malaysia Berhad
- Sahara Nepal Savings and Credit Cooperative

### CARD-MRI Seconded Staff for SACUDIL Project

ACCU and CARD-MRI partnership intensifies as the latter seconded a staff to work for 3 years in SACUDIL (Savings and Credit Union Development in Laos) project. Fundard A. Buncaras is officially welcomed by ACCU team in Bangkok on October 15. He brought with him 17 years of extensive experience on community organizing, financial services operations, and supervisory skills having held key roles at CARD.

## ACCU Joins as Member of Proxfin



ACCU has been accepted as member of Proxfin, an international network of thirty community finance institutions and Développement international Desjardins (DID) whose members have made a commitment to work towards the dual objectives of financial performance and social impact which they consider inseparable.

Proxfin's goal is to foster communication among these institutions which share the same values and approach to performance and community involvement. In this manner, Proxfin intends to help microfinance move forward so that access to financial services soon becomes a reality for everyone. Proxfin member financial institutions play a crucial role in improving the living conditions of the communities they serve. As a group, they have an impact on nine million families throughout the world.

The National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), SANASA Sri Lanka and Central People's Credit Fund of Vietnam are also members of Proxfin. At its Annual General Meeting on October 8, the President and CEO of NATCCO is elected as the President of Proxfin. The meeting was held alongside the International Summit of Cooperatives on October 8-11 in Quebec City.

## Asian Cooperators Attend International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec

More than 2,600 cooperators attended the summit as well as the celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives hosted by ICA, Desjardins Group and St. Mary's University in Quebec City on October 8-11. "This Summit's theme, "The Amazing Power of Cooperatives", is meant to evoke the idea that the cooperative movement represents a long-term solution that can help establish a more solid, democratic and equitable economic system," indicated ICA's President Dame Pauline Green in her welcome message.

The Chair of the Board, President and CEO of Desjardins Group Monique F. Leroux has this to say: "Sustainable prosperity is the creation of wealth through economic development that respects people and their environment, for the benefit of present and future generations." Desjardins Group is the largest cooperative financial group in Canada and 6th largest in the world.

In attendance at the summit was ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi, Sylvia Paraguya of NATCCO-Philippines and Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya of SANASA Federation - Sri Lanka. Delegation from the Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation of Nepal led by Hon. Minister Ek Nath Dhakal also attended the summit.

"Learning the life story of Alfonse Desjardins reinforced the need for a credit union leader that is honest, dedicated, ethical and who works for the people and not for himself/herself," according to Ranjith after visiting the house of A. Desjardins, now a museum. F.W. Raiffeisen and A. Desjardins shared common characteristics.