

# ACCU news



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*Regulators Conference , held in Bangkok*



*ACCU Supervisory Committee and Board Members Met in Bangkok*



*CEOs Prepared and be Ready for CUs/Cooperatives Network Integration*

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The Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions operates as a regional representative organization of credit unions and similar cooperative financial institutions in the region of Asia. ACCU is representing 44.4 million individual members from more than 22,712 credit unions in 22 countries in Asia. ACCU works in partnership with its member organizations [apex body of credit unions] to promote and strengthen credit unions as vehicles of community development and socioeconomic development of people.



## Board Appoints New CEO from September 2014



Recognition from WOCCU

ACCU Account Supervisory Committee and Board of Directors met in Bangkok on March 8 and 11 respectively, both meetings in conjunction with the CEO and Regulators Conference.

Attended by all the five members of the Board, the meeting took an important decision of appointing Elenita V. San Roque as the successor of the current CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi who is retiring on October 2014. San Roque who has served as the Manager Member Services since 1995, will assume the position on September 1, 2014. San Roque is a Certified Public Accountant by profession. She has worked extensively in the development of credit unions in Asia with her experience and expertise in international cooperative and credit union development. Leni, as credit union in Asia knows her, will be the very first woman CEO in ACCU in the last 43 years.

Earning a reputation as Asia's credit union "Super CEO", Ranjith has accepted a new role as the Project Director for ACCU-UNCDF Microlead Expansion project in Myanmar. San Roque said that he is taking an even more challenging role considering that the project has to prove – savings based development approach through credit unions is sustainable.

In another note, the Board reviewed the Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2019. The plan will set the tone for the new phase of ACCU existence in which focus is the development of credit union networks. ACCU has seen itself supporting the federation performing its role in managing the network. The Board will approve the final document in its September meeting.

The Board and Committee meet in person twice a year. The next meeting is in conjunction with the September Credit Union Forum in Bali.



## ACCU President Witnessed the First National Cooperative Congress in Nepal

ACCU President, Mr. Simon Pereira joined the First National Cooperative Congress in Kathmandu, Nepal, on March 25 to 27, which was organized by National Cooperative Federation of Nepal in collaboration with the Government of Nepal, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, the National Cooperative Development Board and the Department of Cooperatives. The theme of the congress was "Sustainable Economic Development and Social Justice through Cooperatives."

Nepali Government recognized cooperatives as one of three pillars of national economy (Cooperative, Public and Private). The congress mainly focused on the evaluation of the cooperative movement in various perspectives and set the future strategy to be aligned with the objectives as stipulated in the cooperative decade announced by the ICA through ICA Blueprint. The congress has announced Kathmandu Declaration 2014 with 11 declarations by recognizing the people's enthusiasm, trust and involvement towards cooperatives.

## *Skills and Knowledge Sharpening for Audit/ Supervisory Committees of a Credit Union*



On January 26 to 30, 2014, ACCU hosted the Credit Union Audit/ Supervisory Committee Training Course at the Cooperative Promotion Department's Information Transfer Training Center in Nakornratchasima Province of Thailand. The course was attended by 24 participants who are the supervisory committee members, auditors, CEOs and government agency from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand. The training emphasized on the duties, responsibilities, skills, knowledge and ability that the audit/supervisory committee members need to know possess and acquire in order to be able to effectively perform their duties.

Participants' feedbacks shown the impact and development on themselves based on the training such as "the training was made simple and applicable to all", "activities are dynamic and can cater to the needs of all participants", and "lots of new learning for the participants"

During the program, participants have learned and realized on what should be done in their respective credit union in order to ensure if good governance is in place. Program provided tools to strengthen

their organization and governance along with opportunity to share their information and experiences with other participants and to widen their perspective of their duties as an audit/supervisory committee members. "I realized that as the credit union grows several more functions, then the responsibilities of the Audit Committee also have to be transformed to cope with the growth", said by our participant.

ACCU recognized that the Audit/Supervisory Committee plays an important role in ensuring the sustainability, safety and soundness of the credit union through auditing and cross-checking its transparency and oversee that the operations is aligned with the rules, regulations, bylaws and policies implemented in the credit union.

This training does not only let all participants to have all the necessary knowledge and skills, but lets them realize and embrace the true roles and responsibilities of the audit/supervisory committee as well. This is to ensure that transparency and good governance are in place to create trust based on safety and soundness of the credit union's operation which ultimately leads to its sustainability in the long run.





# Cooperative Movement Begins in Myanmar

## Promoter Seminar on Savings and Cooperative Organization and Management

On February 6-7, ACCU hosted the Promoter Seminar on Savings and Cooperative Organization and Management, facilitated by Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, ACCU CEO/Project Manager at the Cooperative Training School in Pathein, Ayeyarwaddy Division, Myanmar. The seminar was attended by 5 representatives from governmental agencies and 45 community leaders.



The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to share their ideas and experiences about cooperatives. It was perceived by each leader the passion to learn through active participation with understanding on the principles and functions of each role in the cooperative, introduction on the model bylaws of the Savings and Credit Cooperatives, SCC, appreciation the value of savings and how SCC will contribute to the development of people, community and society, with emphasize on value of volunteerism and habit of thrift and savings.



## Seminar on Cooperative Organization and Management in Bago

Another seminar on Cooperative Organization and Management was held at Bago Cooperative Federation Division Office in Bago, Bago Division on March 17-18. The seminar was attended by 41 cooperative leaders from 10 Townships in Bago with guests from Bago Cooperative Federation and Monetary Union.

The seminar covered varied range of topics such as image of SCC in the marketplace, organizational structure of SCC and Principles and Philosophy of SCC Translated to Business.

## Inaugural General Meeting in Thabaung Cooperative

March 27 marks a successful start of the project with 120 pioneer members of Pan Witt Yee SCC attended their inaugural General Meeting in Thabaung Cooperative Department Office, Pathein, Ayeyarwaddy Division.

Pan Witt Yee SCC is the first SCC organized by ACCU less than 3 months after setting up its Project Office in Myanmar. U Than Tun Win was elected as the President of the SCC during its first general meeting composed of delegates from different village within Thabaung. Each member committed to contributed share capital of 500 Kyats per week and savings of 500 Kyats per week. ACCU CEO/Project Manager, Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, witnessed the momentous occasion.



## Seminar on Organizational Development and Governance of Savings and Credit Cooperative

On March 31 to April 1, ACCU held a seminar on Organizational Development and Governance of Savings and Credit Cooperative, which was attended by 33 cooperative leaders and government officers representing 12 SCCs from 12 townships.

U Lin Htut Moe, Deputy Director of Cooperative Department expressed his unwavering support to the development of SCCs in his division, which he believes it will become the model that other cooperatives in Myanmar will emulate.



Group activities during the seminar revealed major deficiencies in cooperative governance and management of the participating SCCs. "I believe this is the situation of all cooperatives in Myanmar, not just our own cooperatives. This is the first time we learn that there is so much we need to change in the way we govern and manage our cooperatives" said Daw Myo Myo Hlaing, Managing Director of Tet Lann Bazaar Cooperative in Dedaye Township. Salient agreements have been made during the seminar. It includes increasing membership to at least 1,000 by December 2014, amendment of their bylaws to include the Supervisory Committee and Manager in their organizational structure.

## Network Management, an Imminent Task for Federations' CEOs



From March 3 to 6, ACCU, in partnership with FSCT and CULT, organized the CEO Workshop facilitated by Mr. Sylvain Barrette from Development international Desjardins, DID at Chaophraya Park Hotel, in Bangkok. The workshop was attended by 20 CEOs and delegates from 9 countries.

The workshop on the theme Strategic Management for the Development of Credit Union Networks, enlightened participants on the advantages and disadvantages of an integrated credit union network. The Desjardins Model presented by Mr. Sylvain at the workshop along with its characteristics, advantages, criteria of federated network

The training gave an opportunity for participants to learn to analyze the performance of the network based on the fictitious case and how to prepare a turnaround plan to improve the network based on the case. Participants develop their skills to assess the performance of their network enabling them to identify

potential and current issues hindering the development credit unions. At the end of the day, the measurement is how well the network is being managed to effectively deliver its mission of improving lives of people who are its members.

Mr. Sylvain emphasized that there are 4 criteria that characterized the Federated Network, which are Shared Resources, Standardized Operations, Contractual Solidarity and Strategies for Internal Governance. He also emphasized that federation needs to put their acts together because there is an emergency in their network. It is very risk, if the federation does not know the state of the network as the federation needs to manage the network.

All participants, CEOs and delegates have realized and embraced the concept of an integrated Network, and would like to adopt this concept in their federation. Hence, Mr. Sylvain suggested that to know your network as a whole, the first step is to have a

consolidated data and information from all members in the network to come up with the consolidated financial statement. This can be used as a tool to identify the issue in your network.

The workshop concluded with an agreement that the CEOs will prepare the consolidated financial statements of their network which will be used for the September 2014 workshop in Bali, Indonesia. ACCU recognizes that the integration of credit union networks is going to be a serious business for its members. It will also provide and facilitate technical assistance to adopt the elements for integration on a gradual basis.





*Newly Elected ACCRA Officers*

## *Regulators Concur to Delegated Supervision of Credit Unions by Federation*

On March 7-8, ACCU, in partnership with FSCT and CULT, hosted the CEOs & Regulators Conference at Chaophraya Park Hotel, in Bangkok. The conference was attended by regulators, CEOs and delegates from 11 countries and Mr. Sylvain Barrette as a guest speaker.

The summaries on the credit union/cooperative regulations and challenges from each country have been presented, along with the Best Practices from the Desjardins Model in Canada and NACUFOK Model in Korea, on the self-regulation of the credit union by the federation as delegated by regulators to the attendees. In both models, federation acts as a watchdog to monitor and supervise their member organizations to ensure their safety, soundness and sustainability. Participants are welcoming the ideas and are looking forward for further studies to implement the idea in their country. "As always, I found the program very well-informed and valuable", said one of the regulators.

The Fit and Proper requirement for the Board of Directors and positions of trust in the credit union is an area where regulators see the need for regulations. Recognizing that credit union's image is suffering from bad

governance, ensuring trustworthy people being in the positions is important to gain public trust and improve the performance of Asian credit unions, said the Philippine regulator Dr. Emmanuel Santiaguel.

As a result, regulators realized that the federation can be delegated to establish self-regulation of credit unions to strengthen the credit union movement and to assist the regulators in supervising the credit union and cooperatives in their country to ensure its safety and soundness. This will lead to strong and sustain credit union movement and better livelihood of the people in the country.

In addition, the new ACCRA officials have been elected at the end of this meeting to replace the previous officials whose term will end this April. Mr. Md. Humayun Khalid from Bangladesh, Dr. W.H. Karunarthna from Sri Lanka, Ms. Keasorn Manivong from Lao PDR and Dr. Emmanuel Santiguel from

Philippines have been respectively elected as the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of ACCRA.

On March 9, 2014 all the participants visited Nongkhanang Credit Union Limited in Petchburi Province, Thailand, one of the CULT Members, to see and have first-hand experience in the operation of credit union in Thailand.





## CCULB, NESFCUN and NCBL Board Sharpen Skills to Take on Their Role

Board members of the Credit Union League of Bangladesh (CCULB), Board members of the Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative (NESFCUN) and National Co-Operative Bank (NCBL) of Nepal attended the Credit Union Director's Competency Course, CUDCC, to sharpen their skills and obtain necessary knowledge to take on their role. The training was facilitated by ACCU on February 21-25, April 15-16 and 17-18 in their respective country.

The training provided the skills, knowledge, competency needed for the Board members and clarification on what to expect from the Board, including their prime function, expectations from the management and the setting of the direction for the credit union movement in their country.

The CUDCC, Credit Union Director's Competency Course, aimed to let the board members to develop necessary skills, knowledge and competency vital to gear up the credit union movement in their country. Participants realized that their roles now are not only for their credit union, but for moving forward and improving their country's credit union movement toward safety, soundness and sustainability.

National  
Cooperative  
Bank (NCBL)  
of Nepal -  
April  
17-18, 2014



Credit Union  
League of  
Bangladesh  
(CCULB) -  
February  
21-25, 2014



Nepal  
Federation  
of Savings  
and Credit  
Cooperative  
(NESFCUN) -  
April  
15-16, 2014





## *ADB Presentation: Underscores Ability of CUs to Reach Lower Section of Population*

ACCU Chief Executive Office, Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, and Manager Member Services Manager, Ms. Elenita V. San Roque, along with Development international Desjardins (DID) Project Manager, Mr. Sylvain Barrette and Market Development Director, Mr. Serge Gosselin, made an introduction of their respective organizations with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, Philippines on March 14, 2014. ADB was made aware of the success of DID in Canada and the challenges and prospects of the Asian credit union network.

The meeting was made possible through the cooperation of Ms. Kelly Hattel, Financial Sector Specialist (Rural and Microfinance) Public Management, Financial Sector and trade Division Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank – Manila, Philippines.



## *SCUs Audited and Prepare for Federation*

Xiengmouk SCU and Namthouamtai SCUs were audited by Bank of Lao PDR to ensure their sustainability on Accounting and Financial Report, Implementation of Internal Policies and SCU Bylaws no. 03/BOL. The auditor reported main findings on the errors in accounting and delinquency in both SCUs. Both SCUs acknowledged these matters and the solution has been made to eliminate these threats.



In addition, SACUDIL organized the meeting hosted by Khonchan SCU between 6 registered SCUs under the project and related governmental agencies of Lao PDR to discuss on the cooperation and solution to establish the federation of savings and credit unions in Luang Prabang, Oudomxay and Luangnamtha provinces of Lao PDR. The meeting resulted in resolution to tackle with the challenges currently encountered by each SCU mainly on the governance issues and the strategic plan to move forward the SCU and establishment of federation in the year 2014. As a result, the strategic plan for 2014 covered Internal Loan Policies, HRD of SCU, and Policies on Internal Member Welfare, General Meeting Assembly and Internal Audit Guidelines and Policies at SCU level.



## *Validation Audit in Nepal Branded 6 SACCOS for ACCESS Bronze*

Validation of the ACCESS audit by the National Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Unions (NEFSCUN) for 6 SACCOS was carried out by ACCU on April 19-22. "We are happy to receive the good news that four SACCOS got the renewal for Bronze, while two new SACCOS get a fresh brand, also of Bronze," announced the Chairman of NEFSCUN Mr. Rishi Raj Ghimire. NEFSCUN is currently assisting more than 30 SACCOS for accreditation plus another 30 SACCOS being prepared for accreditation under the recently launched program called "PROBATION."

Kisan SACCOS and VYCCU SACCOS will receive the accreditation in Bali, Indonesia. VYCCU Chief Officer Mr. Madhab Prasad Poudel said his credit union experienced threefold increase in membership and assets since 2011 when they started the accreditation process. "I have seen the Board and management's efforts to improve their image and change the management culture to create differentiation," according to NEFSCUN's ACCESS coordinator Mr. Baburam Neupane. "Our task is to maintain and continuously improve. However, with the tremendous increase of our Assets, we are challenged on meeting the required level of Net Institutional Capital," said Mr. Madhab.

In 2012, 5 SACCOS from Nepal were congratulated in the 2012 Forum in the Philippines as they received the Bronze ACCESS accreditation plaque from the ICA Chairman Ms. Dame Pauline Green.

Based on Balanced Scorecard, ACCESS certifies SACCOS for having met the standards for 4 perspectives: Finance, Customer-Member, Internal Business Processes, and Learning and Growth. ACCESS is an acronym for A1 Competitive Choice for Excellence in Services and Soundness.



## Mongolians Inspired by ACCU Forum, Organized their Own in Ulaanbaatar

*Inspired by the Asian Credit Union Forum, the two days Mongolian Credit Union Forum on the theme Sustainable Development drew more than 200 leaders and professionals in a two-day full packed conference on May 2-3 in Ulaanbaatar.*



The Mongolian Confederation of Credit Unions (MOCCU) organized the forum with Moncord SCC as co-organizer and general supporter. Altan Davalгаа CU, Credit Union Mongol SCC, Monum SCC, MonSant Aldar SCC, Sidan SCC, and MPP SCC supported the forum. "Having attended the ACCU forum starting 2011 in Malaysia, I have always dreamed of organizing this forum in Mongolia. The forum is a great venue to share experience, discuss common issues, expand horizon, and reinforce the unity of the credit unions," said the CEO of Moncord.

The Head of the Finance Regulatory Commission Mr. D. Bayarsaikhan inaugurated the forum. The Chairman of MOCCU Mr. Gookhuu presented the state of savings and credit cooperatives (SCCs). Mongolia has 141 registered SCCs with 27,245 individual members and a combined assets



of Mongolian Tugrug 73.8 billion (USD 41 million).

ACCU Manager Member Services Ms. Elenita San Roque in her presentation on Stabilization Fund made distinctions between Central Finance Facility and Deposit Guarantee Fund with Stabilization Fund. She clearly emphasized that the Stabilization Fund functions as a national reserve fund to support credit unions in distress after its reserves have been depleted due to sustained losses. Attendees admitted that the failure of one credit union has a direct impact on all credit unions as public will normally generalized credit unions as unsafe financial institutions.

Having registered the largest delegation of 23 to the Bali Asian CU Forum, MOCCU requested ACCU to share the highlights of



the forum to the attendees. Similar to the Mongolian forum, San Roque underscored the reasons why an annual gathering, like the forum, is important: Celebrate the achievements of the credit union network, recognize – that there is always a room for improvement, recommit to the credit union ideals and move forward by taking action on what they have learned.

The forum featured regulatory framework, international and local credit union best practices and cross cutting issues on credit union development discussed at 8 plenary sessions and 15 breakout sessions discussed by experienced credit union leaders and professionals. The Canadian Co-operative Association represented by Bev Maxim presented the Women Mentoring Program and Innovative Service Delivery methods in the Canadian credit union system.



## First Credit Union Registered in Bhutan

Bhutan is the newest player in the cooperative and credit union movements of the world. The first credit cooperative in Bhutan was being registered with the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agricultural and Forest.

The cooperatives will hold their first General Assembly on April 29, 2014, to elect the Board and committee members to initiate and start their business. However, the capacity limitation of the staff is being considered, but knowledge, skills and competencies gained from exposure visit and ACCU programs attended shall aid their development to ensure their sustainability.



## Widen Perspective on Thai Credit Union and SACCOs Movement for ACCU-DID Intern

Ms. Caroline Richard, DID Intern at ACCU, had the chance to visit the Credit Union League of Thailand Limited, CULT, and the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand Limited, FSCT, on February 10 and 13 respectively. She had a chance to learn about the credit unions movement and the savings and credit cooperatives movement in Thailand, their differences and the history of both movements. The visit has been warmly welcomed by Ms. Kruwan Chonlanai, F&A Manager of CULT and Ms. Pojana Warsikarat, Corporate Communication Department Manager of FSCT. The learning and knowledge acquired from these visit trips enlighten Ms. Caroline and widen her perspective on the cooperative scene in Thailand.



ASIAN CREDIT UNION  
FORUM 2014



## Forum Early Bird Hit 90 % of Registration !

The Early Bird Registration of Forum 2014 closed on April 30. Surprisingly, for the first time ever, more than 480 participants booked their seat for the Forum during the Early Bird registration. Hence, we will close the registration once the target number of 550 will have been reached, which means probably before the due date on July 30.

Please hurry and book your seat as soon as possible to guarantee you not to miss the biggest event of the year for credit unions / cooperatives in Asia.

VISA



## ACCU E-Payment Gateway is Up and Ready !

ACCU is going towards its E-Solutions by launching and integrating the E-Payment Gateway to its service line. ACCU has gone another level by introducing the e-payment gateway to its website to make its members organizations and interest parties more convenience in making payment for the registration, training courses, e-learning course tuition fee, membership fee and making donations to ACCU.

As of now, the E-Payment has been integrated to the ACCU Forum Registration, Membership Dues and Donation on the AFCUD Fund. We are looking forward to be the most advanced in our E-Solutions to offer only the best and most convenience way in delivering our products and services.

# ASIAN CREDIT UNION FORUM 2014

## WAYFORWARD: Unification of Asian Credit Union Networks

*Welcome to Bali!*

September 18 to 20, 2014

### FORUM AT GLANCE

#### 18 SEPT. - THURSDAY

08:00 - 12:00	Visit to credit unions
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
14:00 - 17:00	Cultural Immersion - Historical Places
18:00	Dinner on your own

#### 19 SEPT. - FRIDAY

08:00 - 12:00	Inaugural Sessions
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:00	Plenary 1 – Blueprint for A Cooperative Decade
15:00 - 15:30	P.M. Break
15:30 - 17:00	Breakout Sessions
19:30	Indonesian Night

#### 20 SEPT. - SATURDAY

09:00 - 10:00	<b>Plenary 2:</b> Opportunities & Challenges in the Asian Economic Community in 2015
10:00 - 10:30	AM Break
10:30 - 12:00	Breakout Sessions
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:00	Breakout Sessions
15:00 - 15:30	PM Snack
15:30 - 16:30	<b>Plenary 3:</b> Protecting the Cooperative Identity
16:30 - 17:30	Recommendations and Closing
19:30	International Night

**Simon A. Pereira**  
*President - Bangladesh*

**Min Raj Kadel**  
*1st Vice-President - Nepal*

**Atty. Soledad D. Cabangis**  
*Secretary - Philippines*

**Ranjith Hettiarachchi**  
*CEO - Ex-Officio*

**Romanus Woga**  
*2nd Vice-President - Indonesia*

**Mana Sudsangan**  
*Treasurer - Thailand*

Ranjith Hettiarachchi - Chief Executive Officer  
Elenita V. San Roque - Manager Member Services  
Nutchakarn Toscha - Administrative Officer  
Vivit Chareonsin - Program Assistant  
Sukhmeet Sohal - Secretary/Programs  
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