

ACCU news



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Thai PM Abhisit at FSCT Saving Day



U TOWER Grand Opening Nov. 29, 2010



MoU Signing - FSCT-ACCU



Thailand: Study Visit



CCULB Credit Union Forum



CULROC Exposure Program



Nepal: Certified Governance Trainers

CULROC Continues to Offer Platform for Learning & Exchange



Another successful Exposure Program was organized by the Credit Union League of the Republic of China – Taiwan (CULROC) on November 8-12, 2010 for 10 credit union leaders and professionals from Hong Kong, Korea, Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand. This year's theme was Counseling and Governing Asian Credit Unions.

As a proactive member of the Asian credit union movement, CULROC relentlessly supports ACCU development role by providing an annual platform for learning and exchange of experiences on policies and best practices among members in different Asian countries since 1995. As a way of showing their brotherhood to Asian credit unions, CULROC sponsors the costs of participants in Taiwan.

"We had a very successful workshop this year because of the theme's relevance and diversity of participants who shared abundant knowledge and experiences," International Program Officer Geoff Lin said.

On the first part of the program, participants compared notes on strengths

and challenges of credit unions in their country as well as Taiwan. They appreciated the significance of CULROC's connection with recognized universities in Taiwan, Feng Chia University and Chi Nan University - which add value to CULROC's development initiatives. An immense interest was shown by participants on CULROC's organizational structure, management systems, bylaws, and executive details.

In one session, Lin explained the system of counseling and governance to build sustainable credit unions. He pointed out that the government stance and policy to the credit union movement are critical factors. He shared valuable concepts for a sound and sustainable credit union for the delegates to consider in developing their federations. Lin said the experience of CULROC and the other 6 federations represented in the program would somehow stimulate new ideas and services.

Participants were accorded the utmost hospitality from the Yu-Ching and Mana Credit Union in Kaoshiung Chapter. The involvement of Yu-Ching Credit Union in



TESTING TV REPORTING SKILL:

Participants pose in a relaxed photo shoot after the 30-minute reporting stint on their visit at the Feng Chia University International Campus TV Station.

community development was highlighted in the study visit.

"We ensure that the program maintains a friendly environment to generate rational discussions on issues rather than just simply listening to presenters," according to Lin. Combined with field visit, the participants validated their learning as practiced by credit unions.



NEFSCUN Prepares 26 Trainers to Deploy Governance Framework

The Governance Framework for Credit Unions (Credit Union Business Solution No. 14) is expected to be a most sought training after the NEFSCUN (Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Unions Ltd) completed the trainers training on October 26-30, 2010. Attended by 19 District trainers and 7 managers of ACCESS partner SACCOS, the five days training provided the necessary skills to interpret and rationalize every single provision in the framework apart from developing a high degree of understanding on the importance of good governance in credit unions.

At the closing and certificate distribution ceremony, the chief guest, the Cooperative Registrar Mr. Sudarsan Dhakal requested all the trainers to provide relevant information to practice good governance in every cooperative throughout Nepal. He appreciated the initiatives taken by NEFSCUN, with the support of ACCU in creating self discipline among SACCOS. According to him, the good governance framework would be the guiding document for the Department of Cooperatives to create discipline among all the cooperatives registered in Nepal.

NEFSCUN's Program Officer Shivajee Sapkota who completed the Masters' Training on the framework last January 2010 coordinated the ToT. Sapkota said the framework is translated in Nepali language. NEFSCUN is now developing a training manual for trainers to standardize the delivery of the training and technical assistance to SACCOS, according to Sapkota.

The Governance Framework for Credit Unions will serve as guides for individual credit unions and second level credit union organizations to assist its Board of Directors in the performance of its duties and the exercise of its responsibilities. ACCU believes that good governance is a source of competitive advantage for credit unions. Good governance will serve to drive superior performance and maximize the effectiveness of the Board and the credit union's executive management team by efficiently bringing to bear the skills, experience and judgment of the Board.

The framework is now translated in Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, Mongolian, Nepal and Sinhala Sri Lanka. In the Philippines, NATCCO and PFCCO have integrated both training and technical assistance to deploy the framework to credit unions.

7 Nepalese SACCOS Set for ACCESS Final Audit



Managers of seven SACCOS in Nepal undergoing ACCESS accreditation have high hopes that the November 12-13 preliminary audit made by ACCU will lead them to the final and thus receiving the most coveted accreditation – ACCESS brand.

ACCU technical team CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi and Manager Member Services Elenita V. San Roque presented 10 recommendations for improvement to 7 SACCOS at the end of the preliminary audit. "The SACCOS have complied on the delinquency ratio and provisioning, but much work have to be done to meet the required Institutional Capital," said Hettiarachchi.

ACCESS Bronze will be given if delinquency is fully provisioned and Net Institutional Capital (NIC) is at least positive 5% of total assets. The accreditation will be given if the provisioning and charging off are consistently applied in accordance with the policy; however, the SACCOS need to demonstrate that loans charged off are being collected. As a condition, the candidate SACCOS should implement a comprehensive financial literacy program for their members. This will entail building the competence of staff on financial counseling and changing the approach in the pre-membership education; thus developing a financially literate membership.

Bangladesh CUs Vow to Reach the 'Have Less'



The two credit union gatherings organized by CCULB on November 2-4 in Cox's Bazaar (south of Bangladesh) concluded on approximately additional 70,000 'have less' will be reached by 2012 by 125 credit unions.

The Bangladesh Credit Union Forum on November 2-3 was attended by 300 staff from 90 credit unions across the country. The forum theme was Guidelines for Excellent Credit Union – Excellence in Management. The Forum participants, at the end of the Forum, signed a Declaration stipulating their commitment to be more professional and ethical in dealing with the affairs of credit union in the day-to-day basis. The forum was also the platform to intensify the campaign of reaching 1 million poor people by 2012 through the Credit Union Microfinance Innovation (CUMI). The participants agreed to reach at least 50 low income people every month or 4,500 per month or 54,000 in one year.

Meanwhile, 58 staff and leaders from 35 credit unions attended the CUMI review meeting on November 4. Competition with leading microfinance institutions was cited as the toughest challenge for the credit unions. According to participants, members can easily shift from one microfinance institution to the other, no way to check



**CCULB General Manager:
RATAN F. COSTA**

"We would like to have a meaningful celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives in 2012. Reaching the 'have less' is our simple way of demonstrating our value as cooperatives."

their credit standing and thus, resulting to delinquency.

The presentation of Baridara Mahila Samabaya Samity (cooperative) inspired the participants - that they can overcome the challenges. The Samity has 25,000 low-income women members, no external credit and with 2% delinquency rate. The members of Baridara Mahila save for 6 months before availing of loan. Despite the competition from other MFIs, the members value the long-term benefit of being a member of a cooperative. At the end of the meeting, the participants committed to reach significant number of poor. Attending credit unions also decided to organize a study visit to Baridara Mahila Samabaya Samity, for which CCULB will facilitate.

Members and Partners Visit ACCU Office in Bangkok



CAMBODIAN REGULATORS

Nov. 23: ACCU discussed with Mr. Kim Wada, Deputy Director General (2nd fr. left) and Mr. Rath Sovannorak, Deputy Director of Bank Supervision Dept. (3rd fr. left) of the National Bank of Cambodia the regulatory framework for credit unions in Cambodia.



SRI LANKAN CU LEADERS:

Nov. 18: ACCU CEO R. Hettiarachchi explaining the evolving role of ACCU in credit union development to the Board of Madampe SANASA District Union.



NATCCO TECHNICAL TEAM:

Nov. 19: Sharon Dy and Annalyn Salvaleon (2nd and 3rd from left), members of NATCCO consulting team discussed ACCESS implementation in the Philippines with ACCU CEO.

FSCT joins in Promoting ACCU Credit Union Business Solutions



The Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand (FSCT), the second largest credit union federation in Asia, sealed an agreement with ACCU on November 6, 2010 to promote the 16 Credit Union Business Solutions developed by ACCU.

The overall objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to improve professional management capacity of at least 25 savings and credit cooperatives through the introduction of ACCESS branding and all applicable Credit Union Business Solutions.

The signing ceremony was held at IMPACT Arena - Bangkok in conjunction with the congratulatory party offered by FSCT to its President Mr. Chalernpol Dulsamphant who has been elected as ACCU President. Present at the celebration were the Board of Directors of FSCT, staff members and cooperative leaders in Thailand.

Speaking at the gathering, Mr. Chalernpol said he affirmed the wholehearted support of FSCT and its members to ACCU development work. He invited the savings and credit cooperatives to sign up as ACCU supporter member to uphold the promotion of credit unions in developing countries. He thanked all members of ACCU for placing their trust



**THAI PRIME MINISTER
ABHISIT VEJJAJIVA**

“Savings is the backbone of the economy. I thank FSCT for taking a lead role in inculcating savings habit among members of savings and credit cooperatives in Thailand .”

to FSCT in leading the Asian credit union movement for the next two years until 2012.

Prior to the celebration, FSCT organized the Savings Day presided by the Prime Minister, His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva.



HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Presides the Grand Opening of U Tower, Nov. 29

The U-Tower Building, where ACCU office is housed is to be officially opened on November 29, 2010 presided by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the second daughter of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. She is a member of the Thai Royal Family. She is styled "Her Royal Highness." Thais commonly refer to her as Phra Thep, meaning "princess angel."

She was invested with the title "Somdet Phra Theprat Ratsuda Chao Fa Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Rattasima Khunakon Piyachat Sayam Borommaratchakumari" is equivalent to the British title of The Princess Royal on December 5, 1977.

According to the Managing Director of U Life, Mr. Sahaphon Sangmek, approximately 1,000 guests are expected to witness the opening. Twelve international guests are also attending from Canada, Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

TIMETABLE

2011 Regional Programs and Meetings

January 13-14	ACCU Staff Evaluation & Planning Meeting	Thailand	June 19-24	Credit Union Directors Competency Course	Thailand (tentative)
January 24-28	Master Trainer Training on 360 Degrees Financial Literacy for Credit Union Members	Thailand	September 5-7	Pre-Forum Workshops: CEOs, HRD, Youth and Women	Malaysia
March 12-14	72nd Board Meeting of ACCU	Thailand	September 6	ACCU Board Meeting	Malaysia
April	NACUFOK Exposure	Korea	September 8	Credit Union Visit	Malaysia
April 24	CEOs Workshop and Meeting	Thailand	September 9-10	Asian Credit Union Forum	Malaysia
April 25-26	5th Asian Credit Unions/ Cooperative Regulators Conference	Thailand	September 11	Annual General Meeting	Malaysia
April 27-28	Credit Union Convention & 40th Anniversary of ACCU	Thailand	November 27- December 4	Mini Master on Credit Union Management in collaboration with Kasetsart University	Thailand
June 12-17	13th Asian Development Education Workshop	Thailand			

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Seksan Seenil - Office Assistant



ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN CONFEDERATION OF CREDIT UNIONS

8th Floor, U Tower Building, No. 411, Srinakarin Road,

Suanluang, Bangkok 10250, Thailand

Tel: (66) 2 704 4252 to 54 Fax: (66) 2 704 4255

E-mail: accu@aacu.coop Website: www.aacuu.coop; www.aacuu.asia

air mail