

March 2013

Management Report



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



DEVELOPMENT EDUCATORS - 101 FROM 11 COUNTRIES attended the first Asian DE Grand Reunion held on March 9-11 in Bangkok, Thailand sponsored by the U Group.

Asian DEs Examine their Hearts as Credit Union Advocates

High impact sessions were featured at the Asian Development Educators' Grand Reunion on the theme: Value Based Professionalism for the Gross Happiness of Members on March 8-12, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The 101 DEs from 11 countries reflected on the realization of the credit union mission, the impact of credit union services as measured in the number of members whose lives are improved, the role of DEs in promoting the values and principles of cooperatives and their ethical compass as Development Educators.

The reunion culminated with a declaration - a burning commitment to credit union is a clear hallmark of passionate and highly effective credit union advocates. Arising from this conference, the DEs adopt and embrace the Development Educator Ethical Compass: IDEALS (Integrity, Duty bound and Disciplined, Empowering, Accountability, Learner-Leader and



CEOs' APPROVAL. At the closing program of the DE grand reunion, CEOs of ACCU member organizations as witnessed by the WOCCU President and CEO (seated 4th from left) pledged to support DE projects and tap them as resource in their respective countries. They also agree to provide platform to facilitate the DEs in their continuing professional growth.

Selfless with Strong Sense of Mission). The reunion would not be possible without the sponsorship of the U Group comprising of the Cooperative Development Foundation for Asia, Klongchan Credit Union, Monkhol Sethi Credit Union, Union Life Insurance Public Co. Ltd., and Union Inter Insurance Public Co. Ltd., through

the kind and able leadership of President Dr. Supahchai Srisupaaksorn. Attendees of the reunion are DEs from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The President and CEO of the World Council of Credit Unions Brian Branch was a special guest to the event.



Myanmar Farmers Need Support from Coops

30 cooperative managers and Board of Directors and officers attended the training-workshop on AgriFinance on March 19-21 organized by the Central Cooperative Union of Myanmar. The workshop concluded on the introduction of AgriFinance program in cooperatives that includes need base agrifinance (savings and loans), organizing farmers association, training members on financial literacy, linkage with the Agricultural extension offices and promotion of community agricultural undertaking.

CCS has introduced microfinance program for cooperatives that has reached approximately 90,000 have less. It has also recognized that farmers equally need support from the cooperatives as they are still living in subsistence economy. Accordingly, the farmers are characterized by low levels of production, yielding a surplus capable of meeting little more than the basic necessities of life - a major constituent to poverty and a cause of underdevelopment.



77TH ACCU BOARD MEETING:

held on March 12 in Bangkok, Thailand. Prior to the meeting the Audit and Supervisory Committee met on March 10. In attendance were (seated L-R) Secretary Soledad Cabangis, President Simon A. Pereira, 1st VP Min Raj Kadel (standing L-R) CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi, Treasurer Mana Sudsangan and 2nd VP Romanus Woga. The next Board meeting will be held on September 2013 in conjunction with the Asian Credit Union Forum in Nepal.



Coops Role in Bhutan's Financial Inclusion Policy Essential

The three days training on Organization and Management of Credit Cooperatives on March 26-28 in Thimpu were attended by at least 30 coop leaders, key officers of leading government agencies and Coop Task Force members involved in the promotion of cooperatives. Speaking at the opening, the Deputy Governor of the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan Ms. Eden Dema highlighted the important role of credit unions in promoting financial inclusion in Bhutan. The workshop reviewed the regulations based on best practices, thus, the Task Force would need to finalize the proposed amendments on the regulation. It was clarified that credit cooperatives are meant for everyone as there was a notion that cooperatives are meant for farmers and rural areas. Increasing membership, introduction of savings services and organizing new cooperative in Thimpu were listed among the action steps to be taken by the participants. The cooperative act was passed on 2009 followed by the creation of the Dept. of Agricultural Marketing & Cooperatives in charge on the promotion of coops.



CHARTING COOP HISTORY IN BHUTAN: Top Photo: Considered as pioneers of the cooperative movement in Bhutan posed for a group photo in Thimpu. Heightened interest on cooperatives dominates the workshop. ACCU supports the initiative to organize the first credit cooperative in Bhutan. Below: (R) An officer of DAMC (center) discusses the introduction of savings program with the group of dairy farmers and their manager (L).



WOCU President & CEO Visit: ACCU President Simon Pereira presents a token to Brian Branch, WOCU Pres. & CEO during his visit on March 10-11. He met with the CEOs of member organizations and Board of Directors of ACCU to discuss the partnership between ACCU & WOCU.

Registration is Open

Asian Credit Union Forum 2013

Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu, Nepal

- September 9 to 11 - Pre-Forum Workshops: CEO, HRD, Women & Youth
- September 12 - Credit Union Visits
- September 13 to 14 - Asian Credit Union Forum
- September 15 - Annual General Meeting

Host: Nepal Federation of Savings & Credit Cooperatives Ltd. (NEFSCUN)