

# ACCUnews<sup>®</sup>

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*Together I can tell you that the world's co-operatives are working to make this International Year a powerful restatement of the co-operative ideal. Never in its 170 year history has the global movement acted together under a single logo and slogan built not on the need to sell a product, but to promote a better way of doing business, and we need to continue that momentum.*  
- Dame Pauline Green, ICA President



**COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD**



# ACCUnews<sup>®</sup>

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 41.6 million individual members from more than 22,019 credit unions in 25 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.



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# President's Message

*"Our mission, vision and core values are the foundation in which ACCU shall anchor its actions."*

I would like to thank all the members for putting their trust on me to serve as your President for 2012-2014. Once again, it is a great privilege to be of service to ACCU from the last time I was in the Board as Treasurer in 1991-1992 and First Vice-President in 1993-1994.



*President Simon A. Pereira*

I am truly grateful to all of you for the demonstration of your solidarity as one Asian credit union movement. Solidarity is a fundamental strategy where our strengths are pooled together and collectively we overcome our challenges. The way in which we have demonstrated our solidarity during the last 41 years is a great achievement – a period long enough to prove our strength and collective efforts to adhere to the principle of 'cooperation among cooperatives.'

In more than 30 years of my involvement in the credit union, I am a witness on the evolution of ACCU role i.e. from planting the seed of credit unions country to country, to leadership development, to professionalization, and to quality assurance. The Board honors our past leaders for their diligence and hard work in bringing ACCU to its current stature of achievements. The Board commitment is to continue what our past leaders have started, always challenge the status quo (innovation), and operate in the principle of good governance and excellent service to members.

The management in partnership with the CEOs of member organizations has produced 19 business solutions to build sustainable credit union system in Asia. These solutions capture our passion and commitment that will revive and uphold the future of our movement. The solutions are not just technical documents and tools, but they ensure the maintenance of the credit union values and differentiation. We earnestly request our members to deploy these solutions so that we can move to the next level of our credit union development – E solutions.

I believe a small credit union should be SMART and a large credit union should be STRONG. Therefore, we must manifest ourselves in many different types of change and



## **OATH OF ACCU BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 - 2014:**

*L-R: President Simon A. Pereira, Bangladesh; 1st Vice-Pres. Min Raj Kadel, Nepal; 2nd Vice-Pres. Romanus Woga, Indonesia; Treasurer Mana Sudsanguan; Secretary Atty. Soledad D. Cabangis, Philippines taking oath after election on 9th September.*

must be prepared to innovate at all times. The Board and management will critically and objectively look into the broader perspective of credit union challenges to better shape our services based on the needs of members.

The Board of Directors responsibilities stem from the organization-wide vision of Sustainable Credit Unions in Asia. We believe that each individual is worthwhile – they have an equal right and opportunity to receive quality access to affordable financial services from a sound and safe credit union. As collectively crafted by our members, the Board of Directors shall carry out the Road Map 2009-2014 leading to our vision. The Road Map cannot be an end in itself; it needs to be part of our system as a business model. The Board will ensure that the Road Map is relevant to the fast changing environment. Our mission, vision and core values are the foundation in which ACCU shall anchor its actions.

As United Nations declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives, I urged our members to stay in the forefront because of our century old experience in this field. We are very proud that our credit unions are providing all-inclusive financial services to assist low-income families. We trust that we will maintain our perseverance in opening our doors to low-income people as the gap between the poor and rich is increasing. We consider IYC as the beginning of another revolution to fight poverty, creation of employment opportunities and promotion of social inclusion through cooperative means. Thank you very much.

## 4 Pre-Forum Workshops Held in the Philippines



### CEOs: Corporate Governance in Federations and Credit Unions in Asia

Attended by 20 CEOs and designated delegates of member organizations, the workshop concluded on the development of minimum prudential standards for credit unions, introduction of payment gateway for Asian CUs, publication of Credit Union Technical Review, developing AgriFinance solution, implementation of ACCESS for federations, integration of the young professional internship program (Russia & India), and developing new tool on Disaster Risks Reduction and Management for Credit Unions. Select Credit Union's Executive Officer Mark Worthington was the main resource person.

### Training Women to Win: Entrepreneurship Development

15 women attended the workshop that provided practical skills on enterprise development such as product innovation, forward and backward linkage, pricing, product presentation and fair trade. The workshop recommended ACCU to continuously support women program in credit unions, if possible organize an international assembly of women in credit unions and support the entrepreneurial development for women.



### Youth: Leadership Workshop

More than 20 youth attended the workshop that provided an opportunity to analyze the leadership involvement, issues and future direction of youth in credit unions. The workshop recommends the creation of youth council represented by different countries with organized youth organizations. The council shall monitor the implementation of existing programs, formulate new ones, and discuss current youth issues. The workshop's main facilitator was the Director of WAW Credit Union Mark Dixen.

### HRD: Competency Course for Audit Committee

63 leaders and technical staff of member organizations in nine countries attended the workshop. The workshop introduced the Trainer Manual on Audit/Supervisory Competency Course as Solution no. 19. The training marks the start of the full deployment of the solution to member organizations. ACCU anticipates that the solution will help audit committee fulfill their responsibilities in ensuring the safety and soundness of credit unions.



# 1st Young Professional Internship: Of Learning and Friendship



Tagum Cooperative and Panabo Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PMPC), both supporter members of ACCU, hosted the first ever young professionals internship in the southern Philippines on August 17 to September 1. Participated by two credit union managers from Russia Ms. Olga Fedorova and Ms. Anna Chernova, the internship provided the young managers and staff of hosts cooperatives with a unique opportunity for professional development.

In 15 days, the interns were immersed in the credit union and community, receiving general leadership training and learning the ins-and-outs of day to day operations. The real success of the program lies in the experience gained by the hosts.

“It was with enthusiasm to have learnt that the Panabo MPC was picked as one of the hosts of the young

professional internship program of ACCU,” said General Manager Lalaine Gepaya. PMPC had never thought twice and greatly pleased that amongst a number of cooperatives in the Philippines, ACCU considered PMPC for this, said Lalaine. “Learning and sharing of best practices is thought-provoking since linguistic and cultural factors of socializing with foreign friends take adjustments. But, these are only typical first impressions and expectations,” according to Lalaine.

The 4-day English tutorial sponsored by Tagum Coop improved the communication skills and English grammar of the two managers. Both were immersed in all the coop’s activities such as the After 5 Fitness, marketing activities, and Disaster Action Team (DAT) training on Emergency and Rescue. “It is heartwarming listening Ms. Anna

Chernova delivering English speech with confidence at the closing of ACCU pre-forum workshop. It was a great privilege for our coop to inspire an aspiring coop worker in other part of the world,” confesses Tagum Coop Chair Norma Pereyras.

“Truly, the internship isn’t purely learning and sharing of best practices but building of harmonious friendship. It is an instrument of good communication, despite of social and cultural differences between countries, said Lalaine. It is also teaching them of the Filipino culture and traditions, and in the same way too, they have learned from them. “ACCU is really a steward of learning and the conduit of friendship,” she added.

Reciprocating the Filipino gesture, the Russians announced that they will host 6 young professionals from ACCU members in June 2013.





## Bar of Participation to ACCU Forum Rising

Considered as the most attended in 23 years, the Asian Credit Union Forum in the Philippines on September 6-8, 2012 drew 630 credit union leaders and professionals from 27 countries. The forum and celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives adopted the IYC theme: Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World.

The forum featured resource persons from the best and the brightest in credit union industry across the world. Breakout session presenters were selected from caliber credit union practitioners and international experts in the field. The learning tracks represented high interest issues on the three aims of IYC: Cooperatives

& credit unions' public awareness, growth and policies.

Recommendations emanating from the topics discussed were adopted at the closing program. Addressed to all levels, ACCU considers these recommendations as inputs to its programming. The forum is another means for ACCU and its member organizations to solicit inputs pertinent to the current needs and issues faced by credit unions.

'Fiesta' theme reception was accorded by ten cooperatives visited by 430 international delegates. The Filipino hosts showed their well-known tradition of hospitality and friendship. The Filipino cooperators welcomed

their Asian counterparts after seven years when Philippine hosted the Asian Credit Union Forum in 2005. The forum was hosted by the Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives and National Confederation of Cooperatives in collaboration with CARD-MRI.

"Our 40 delegates from the 'top of the world' – Nepal are enormously excited to welcome our friends and credit unionist across Asia," according to NEFSCUN Chair and ACCU 1st Vice-President Mr. Min Raj Kadel. The Board and Directors and the General Meeting accepted the invitation of the Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives as the host for the 2013 Forum.

## Green: World's Co-op Movement is Reinstating the Co-op Ideal at IYC

For the very first time in ACCU history, the President of the International Co-operative Alliance President Dame Pauline Green graced the historic occasion of the credit union movement in Asia. In her keynote, Green stressed that the International Year is a rich gift to the cooperative movement.

Green talked about her passionate belief that the cooperative model of enterprise is a key instrument in ensuring a better-balanced, responsible and sustainable global economy. She also underlined the changes that the cooperatives must seek if, as a global movement, cooperatives are to maximize the opportunities that the current economic and political situation presents – a different sort of business that works to put the local, regional and now the global economy at the service of people, rather than as now, leaving people at its mercy.

Green called the attention of the attendees on the fact that for nearly 200 years, co-operatives and credit unions have been creating jobs across the world. “We currently employ over 100 million of the world’s citizens – 100 million people, I’m told that’s more than all the multinational businesses put together,” attested Green. “And as our world’s leaders cast around looking for job creation initiatives to restore lost hope and aspiration to so many of its unemployed, we must be arguing the case that support for the grass roots co-operative model of business, has



the potential to do so much more. The world would be a different place if just a fraction of the public money that went to bail out the big commercial banks across the world, was put into co-operative and credit union development.”

“Together I can tell you that the world’s co-operatives are working to make this International Year a powerful restatement of the co-operative ideal. Never in its 170 year history has the global movement acted together under a single logo and slogan built not on the need to sell a product, but to promote a better way of doing business, and we need to continue that momentum,” said Green on her keynote address. “But 2012 is just the beginning. It is our aim that on the 31st December 2012 we will be able to move from a successful International Year of Co-operatives to a decade of co-operative growth. And at the closing event for the International Year in Manchester, the ICA will reveal its blue print for the decade of co-operative growth,” assured Green. Her concluding words – “Together we really can help to build a better world. I hope that you will come on that journey with us.”



## CUMI Performance Award Bestowed to SACCOS in Nepal & India

The award is presented to Buldana Urban Credit Cooperative Society, India and Sahara Nepal Saving and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. in recognition of the fulfillment of its social responsibility by offering opportunities to low-income and disadvantaged communities through the provision of affordable financial services, instilling the value of thrift and generating means to create wealth for 'have less' families.

ACCU commends the cooperative for reaching out more than 40,000 and 55,000 'have less' Indian and Nepali women respectively. These women are given a glimpse of hope and better lives through cooperative



means. The award is bestowed on the 7th day of September 2012 at the Asian Credit Union Forum in the Philippines. ACCU inspires Asian credit unions to fulfill their mission of

helping members particularly the poor and disadvantaged improve lives. Consequently, credit unions contribute to the achievement of the MDG on poverty alleviation.

## 5 Nepalese SACCOS Receive Bronze ACCESS Accreditation



ACCU has accredited five savings and credit cooperatives in Nepal for Bronze ACCESS Brand valid for one year until August 31, 2013. The credit unions have demonstrated significant changes as seen in their Balance Sheets such as full provision of delinquent loans, decrease

in delinquency, increase of net institutional capital, reaching key ratios of PEARLS and adopted comprehensive policies, systems and procedures. The credit unions recognized that ACCESS helped them focused on key operational problems that could pose future risks.

The five credit unions received Bronze ACCESS Brand: Janasachetan Saving & Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Bindhavasini Saving Co-operative Society Ltd., Budol Samudayik Saving & Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Siddhi Ganesh Saving & Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., and Samudayik Saving Co-operative Society Ltd.

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.



## Placing Bhutan in the Global Coop Movement

Bhutan, the youngest cooperative movement in Asia is making initial step to build linkages to situate the Bhutanese cooperative movement in the cooperative map. In the recent international seminar on “Cooperatives: Empowering Communities towards Gross national Happiness” on 8-10 October, ACCU shared how credit unions help people gain socioeconomic empowerment.

“I must confess that the presentation was well appreciated by self and participants. We could get lots of insights on credit unions and cooperatives,” according to Mr. Dorji Dhradul, Director of the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests – the organizer of the conference.

The presentation on credit unions created an enthusiasm to introduce

financial services to existing 16 rural cooperatives registered in 2009. One of the seminar recommendations was to establish linkage with ACCU as access to financial services is a major constraint in the development of cooperatives. As a first step DAMC/MoAF should start working towards developing institutional linkage with ACCU, the recommendation stated.

Mr. Dorji Dhradul also welcomed the idea of organizing the first credit coop among the employees of DAMC. He admitted that their staff would be effective promoters if they practice what they preach.

The DAMC has sent a letter of intent to ACCU regarding the partnership which was wholeheartedly accepted by ACCU. The first activity shall commence in November. ACCU will be organizing the training and study visit of DAMC staff in Thailand.



### **BREWING PARTNERSHIP:**

(Above): H.E The Hon'ble Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Royal Government of Bhutan and Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-ROAP opening the Cooperative Exhibition (Below): ACCU Manager Member Services E. San Roque presents token to Director of DAMC Mr. Dorji Dhradul after agreeing on both organizations' working partnership on coop development in Bhutan.

## Cooperatives in Bhutan

Cooperatives existed in Bhutan as early as 1960s in the form of informal community groups for the community resource management such as resups (Forest caretaker) and chusups (water caretaker). As the Bhutan's socio-economic development progressed, more farmers groups and cooperatives were formed informally to manage the income generating activities. The then the Ministry of Agriculture has adopted the farmers' group formation as the means to boost the agriculture production and management of the farm resources. As a result, Bhutan today has 754 informal farmers groups. Envisaging more coops

for economic activities and the need to have legal umbrella to support these cooperatives, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB) took the first step to create enabling environment with enactment of the Cooperative Act in 2001. In 2009, with the enactment of Cooperative (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2009, the responsibility to implement the Act was entrusted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF), which was shortly followed by the establishment of Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC) to execute this mandate. Since its establishment in March 2010, the department commenced

registration of Farmers Groups (FGs) and Primary Cooperatives starting August 2010. The promotion of FGs and cooperatives is one of the 8 initiatives of the MoAF under the Royal Government's Accelerated Bhutan's Socio Economic Development (ABSD). It is also been used as the strategy for crop production and marketing and other resource management. And ultimately it is seen as decentralization and empowerment tool for the farming communities. As such, it is the policy of RGOB to promote farmers groups and cooperatives as a strong and sustainable pillar of the economic development of the Bhutanese society. Source: <http://www.bhutan.coop/>

## ACCU Joins as Member of Proxfin



### COMMUNITY FINANCE LEADERS:

Members of Proxfin pose for a group photo during the General Meeting on October 8 in Quebec City, Canada.

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.

## Asian Cooperators Attend International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec

More than 2,600 cooperators attended the summit hosted by ICA, Desjardins Group and St. Mary's University in Quebec City on October 8-11. In attendance were ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi, Sylvia Paraguya of NATCCO and Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya of SANASA. Delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nepal led by its Minister also attended the summit. "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." 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.

## FSCT's Twin Celebration: 40th Year Anniversary & IYC



The twin celebration of the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand (FSCT) drew more than 1,200 well wishers. Giving alms to 40 Buddhist Monks for thanksgiving kicked off the whole day event on September 1. It was followed by educational sessions on the impact of the ASEAN Economic Community by the Deputy Director General of ASEAN and Social Banking by the Managing Director of Buldana Urban Co-op Credit Society in India and presentations from the advisers of FSCT. The gala dinner was graced by the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Theera Wongsamut who did the honor of awarding outstanding members of FSCT. Today, FSCT ranks no. 2 in Asia with 2.2 million individual members. The federation manages an assets of Baht 55 billion (USD 1.8 billion).

## CREDIT UNION People

### CARD-MRI Seconded Staff for SACUDIL

ACCU and CARD-MRI partnership intensifies as the latter seconded a staff to work for 3 years in Laos project. Fundard A. Buncaras is officially welcomed by on October 15. Having held key roles in CARD, he brought with him 17 years of extensive experience on community organizing, financial services, and supervisory skills.



### VIVIT CHAREON SIN:

Joins ACCU as Mgnt. Trainee on August 15, 2012. He has a master's degree on Human Resource Development and skills on information technology. He is responsible for SACUDIL proejct.



### SYLVIA PARAGUYA:

Elected as the President of Proxfin, an international network of 30 community finance institutions and Développement international Desjardins. Paraguya is the CEO of the National Confederation of Cooperatives in the Philippines.



### TAHEREH FAROKHI:

Received the Innovative Services and Innovation Award from the Brussels Eureka. The award was given for her contribution to the innovative credit and savings services in credit unions. Farokhi is an advisor to two affiliate members of ACCU in Iran: Mol-AI-Movahedin Credit Cooperative and Samen AI Aemeh Credit Cooperative.



**NORMA PEREYRAS:** Is the winner of the Most Outstanding Cooperative Leader Award given by the Cooperative Development Authority on 11th October. Pereyras is the Chair of Tagum Coop, also the national winner for the 2012 most outstanding cooperative. She is also the Chair of the Philippine Cooperative Center. She served ACCU as its Board of Director and held key leadership positions in apex organizations in the Philippines. Pereyras is a devoted member of the Asian Leaders/Managers Institute and a passionate Asian Development Educator.

## ACCU Supporter Membership: Help Promote Growth of Credit Unions

ACCU provides opportunity for large credit unions to be part of its development work. The annual dues contributed by supporters could accelerate the promotion and strengthening of credit unions in countries where credit unions are its initial stage.

Welcome to New Supporter members joining from August to September:

#### 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
- *Malaysia:* Koperasi Perdanajaya Malaysia Berhad
- *Nepal:* Sahara Nepal Savings and Credit Cooperative

**How to participate?** E-mail [accumail@aaccu.coop](mailto:accumail@aaccu.coop) to get the application form and instruction on dues payment.



**BHUTAN:** Cooperation from ACCU members is needed to grow the credit union seed.

# TIMETABLE

## 2012/2013 Regional Programs and Meetings

2012		
November 4 - 10	CULROC Exposure Program	Taiwan
November 5 - 10	Indonesian Study Visit	Thailand
November 25 - December 11	Bhutan: Trainers Training on Credit Cooperative Promotion and Study Visit on Agricultural Cooperatives	Thailand
2013		
January 27 - 31	Regional Workshop on AgriFinance for Credit Unions	Bangkok, Thailand
February 6 - 15	Internship to Buldana Urban Credit Cooperative Society & MAFCOCS	India

2013		
March 8 - 12	Asian Development Educators Grand Reunion	Bangkok, Thailand
March 12 - 13	ACCU Board of Directors Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
March 13 - 15	CEOs Workshop and Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DE GRAND REUNION:

Our sponsor, the U Group provides scholarships for DEs from developing countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Mauritius, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Application for scholarship should be submitted to ACCU on or before December 31, 2012. The request for scholarship must be endorsed by ACCU member organization (national federation) where the credit union of the applicant DE is affiliated.

### Board of Directors

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