



# ICA Regional Women's Committee

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE ICA REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE FOR ASIA & PACIFIC



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## Meeting of the Office Bearers



Meeting in progress

### *From The Editor....*

We are getting ready for the Regional Women's Committee Meeting and Forum-2012 during this International Year of Co-operatives -2012 which is a life time opportunity. This issue covers our activities regarding planning for the big events of committee meeting and forum and also revising and upgrading our capacity building programmes through upgrading resources. The story of a successful co-operative business and co-op social responsibility is also presented along with important news. Our endeavour is to present divers information for the benefit of the readers. Feedback from readers is requested -Savitri

The meeting of the office bearer of the RWC was held on 24th April, 2012 in the meeting room of the NATCCO in Manila, Philippines.

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson, two vice chairpersons, Ms. Emma Nieva and Ms. Kruewan Chonlanai and Ms. Savitri Singh Advisor Gender Programme and Communication of ICA-AP were present. Ms. Salome Ganibe, former Executive Director of AWCF was also present as observer.

The meeting was held to discuss the usual business of the committee and to plan the implementation of the activities in 2012 especially the meeting of the Regional Women's Committee, elections of the office bearers, strategy to increase number of members, organising of the regional women forum etc. These activities will be held in Kobe, Japan in conjunction with ICA-AP Regional Assembly and related events in November 2012.

Besides the meeting of the Office Bearers of the RWC,

**“ Co-operative enterprises  
build a better world ”**

the meeting of the Manual Review Committee was also held. The members discussed with the writer about terms and conditions of the writing of the advance version of the existinag training manual for leadership development of women.

After detailed discussion with the writer and the committee members, it was agreed upon that :

An advanced resource guide is needed for training alongside the existing manual. The name of the document will be “Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality”.

It is planned that the final draft of the guide will be ready by September-2012 and pilot testing will be done in December 2012.

## “Will to Serve” The Story of San Dionisio Credit Co-operative



*The Credit Co-op counter*

The office bearers of the Regional Women Committee visited the San Dionisio Credit Cooperative in Philippines following the meeting of the Officer Bearers of RWC and manual review. The team was received by Mr. Gari baldio Leonardo, Chairman , other Board Member and Ms. Cielo the Chief Executive Officer of the Co-operative. The Co-operative started in 1961 and currently having 70% of women membership. The Co-operative primarily provides credit services to members. However, it is also running a school for children and providing various services to members. The Co-operative can be found at the website - <http://sandionisiocredit.coop>.



*The School run by the co-op*



*The Chairperson and CEO of the San Dionisio Credit Cooperative with ICA RWC during the visit*

## Support system for Women in Consumer Co-operative



*Educational activity at a Child Care Centre*

A report by Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of ICA-RWC.

Child Raising Club are encouraging members' participation and supporting working moms.

Saitama Co-op, which is one of the biggest member co-ops of JCCU is located next to Tokyo and it has 880,000 members and 4800 employees. As of fiscal year 2010, it ranked 5th on the list of big co-ops in Japan.

Saitama Co-op mainly focuses on retailing groceries and non-food items through home delivery and store operation. Besides retailing business, it runs welfare and insurance business as well.

One of the remarkable characteristics is that 90% of its members and 80% of its employees are women. This

situation is very common in consumer co-ops in Japan.

Saitama Co-op provides its members with child care service during the members meetings, general assembly and training programs.

Every co-op store has a room for members meeting. 50 out of 52 co-op stores have assembly rooms, and Saitama Co-op has 8 special facilities for members. All of them are usable for childcare.

28 facilities are organizing "Parents and kids club" providing places for moms to chat freely as well as offering playground for kids. These facilities are helping mothers who work in the co-op.

Saitama Co-op has been promoting "balanced work with family life" and "pleasant working environment for both men and women".

Women are assigned in home delivery section divers 1.5t trucks and deliver goods to co-op members. However number of public childcare facilities is insufficient in Tokyo metropolitan area. In 2008, Saitama co-op built childcare center next to its delivery center for employees for securing working environment that allow moms work without worries. 4 out of 19 delivery centers currently have childcare facilities. As of April of 2012, 33 employees and 51 kids are registered as the user of the childcare center.

Users say, "Being close with my kids make my work more



Children are playing in a Child Care Centre



A very busy "Parents and kids club"

easy without worries" "Kids love warm atmosphere of the center" "Service charge is very reasonable" Relaxing atmosphere is kept in the office thanks to the kids. Childcare center is one of the attractions for part time workers and successfully retains female workers.

Saitama Co-op will keep taking measures to encourage women participation for decision-making process and providing learning opportunity as well as keep pleasant working environment for female workers.

## News From the Region

The national Council for Co-operative Education (NCCE) a department of NCUI, India has conducted a Leadership Development Programme for Chairpersons/Women Directors of Cooperatives of India from 10-12 July, 2012. About 45 women cooperative leaders from all over the country attended the programme. Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme of ICA-AP was invited to take a session on "Women & Leadership - Challenges & Strategies" with International perspective.

**Important Notice:** The meeting of the Regional Women's Committee for Asia and Pacific and Women Forum-2012 will be held on 26 November, 2012 followed by an exchange program on 27 November in Kobe, Japan in conjunction with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly and related events from 25-30 November, 2012.

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Edited by : Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor, Gender Program.

Contact : savitrisingh@icaroop.coop Tel: 6888250 Extn. 109 Fax: 26888067