

CCW Connection

Official newsletter of Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW)
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A sector organisation of:



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Dear members,

Please find your first edition of the CCW Connection for 2013. We have changed the layout to complement the five themes laid out in the ICA's Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade: participation, sustainability, identity, supportive legal framework and capital. We hope that this new focus will help us all to keep the Blueprint vision in mind and to achieve our goals as a movement before 2020.

Best of wishes for the year to come,
Rodrigo Gouveia,
Secretary General

Participation

CCU holds photo contest for consumer-members

Bulgarian consumer co-operative CCU recently held a national photo contest for its consumer-members, inviting them to submit a photo depicting their experience in their family grocery co-operatives.

Prizes for the five winners including a holiday gift package for the top winner and store vouchers.



JCCU partners with the ILO to develop African co-operatives

The Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) has been partnering with the ILO since 2010 on an annual capacity building programme for African co-operative leaders.



The initiative aims to strengthen the African co-operative movement by exposing leaders from East Africa to the best practices of Japanese co-operatives.

The 2012 programme took place from 2-9 September in Tokyo and Gunma, Japan and welcomed four co-operative stakeholders from Tanzania and Zanzibar.

The participants learned about the various sectors of the Japanese co-operative movement and visited the rural prefecture of Gunma to observe the value chain from agricultural production to consumer purchase in co-operatives.

At the end of the programme, the African guests shared their co-operative activities and findings from the Japanese study tour.

Sustainability

Coop Norway sees boost in organic sales

Coop Norway's Coop Extra stores announced a 55% increase in sales of organic fruits and vegetables (a total of 75 million euros) during the first half of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.

Coop Mega stores reported increases in organic sales of 20% from year to year.

The Norwegian government is also taking an interest in organic food, setting a goal of 15% of Norwegians to consume organic products regularly by 2020.

Sales of organic fruits and vegetables currently account for just over 2.1% compared to the consumption of conventional fruit and vegetables.



Hispacoop presents study on food waste in Spanish households

On 20 December, Hispacoop released its study on food waste, which found that Spanish households generate half a kilo of waste per week for a total of 1.5 million tonnes wasted annually throughout the country.

According to the study, which was realised in collaboration with the National Consumer Institute, the products most frequently thrown away are bread, cereals, pastries, fruits and vegetables, and those least frequently wasted are eggs and fish.

The study found that people with a higher education level and socioeconomic status waste less, and that less food is wasted as the number

of household members increases, coinciding with better planning of the menu and shopping list.

Quality is ranked as the most important factor for consumers in choosing products, followed by price and special offers.

Hispacoop analysed the food waste produced by more than 400 Spanish households, supplemented with 3,500 online and onsite surveys.



Identity

iCOOP Korea launches press corps



The fifteen members of iCOOP Korea's new press corps started their work at the beginning of the new year after completing five weeks of professional training.

Contributing to the blog "iCOOP Korea, Flying with Cooperation", these journalists will follow iCOOP Korea's policies and activities to complement public advocacy.

The press corps is expected to increase member participation and expand iCOOP Korea's networking base.

After ten years of separate branding, consumer co-operative FDB and its Coop stores will now be united under the name Coop in order to advance its goal of becoming Denmark's leading retail company.



Despite the re-organisation, all democratic bodies and current initiatives will remain intact.

Along with the new name, FDB CEO Thomas Bagge Olesen has announced his resignation.

Since Mr Bagge Olesen became CEO six years ago, FDB has streamlined its organisational and governance structures, increased focus on ownership and the membership benefit programme CoopPlus and established a strong platform for CSR.

CCW thanks him for his service and wishes him the best on future endeavours.

Centrosojuz to rejuvenate co-operative education initiatives

Russian consumer co-operative Centrosojuz is developing a programme to modernise co-operative schools and colleges.

This project will be carried out with the help of the Boards of Directors of specialised institutions of consumer co-operatives, consumer associations within educational institutions and the founders and leaders of educational institutions.

The modernisation process is expected to incorporate more technical aspects into the programme, more effectively manage the services offered, create a co-operative jobs bank and further develop continuing education opportunities for small- and medium-sized business owners.

Supportive legal framework

The Co-operative enhances policy to support caring staff

The Co-operative Group (UK) announced an enhanced family-friendly people policy to further support staff who are carers, meaning individuals that care for family members or friends in need of assistance because of illness, frailty or disability.

The initiative, which aims to enhance recruitment, retention and support for employees with caring responsibilities, consolidates a range of flexible work-

ing and family leave arrangements and signposts training, information and a 24 hour employee assistance programme for carers.

Liz Bramley, The Co-operative's Head of Employee Engagement & Diversity, who worked with carers agencies to review and enhance its policy, said, "Caring is a continuing and growing fact of life for many and our family-friendly approach is designed to give

managers across our businesses the tools to act consistently and fairly."

The Co-operative's Carers Policy complements the upcoming launch of the Group's 2013 Corporate Charity of the Year partnership with Carers Trust.

The Co-operative estimates that more than one in ten of its 100,000 employees are carers.

Capital

S Group collaborates on construction of wind farm

Consumer co-operative S Group (Finland) is working with Finnish wind power industry pioneer TuuliWatti Ltd and energy company St1 to construct a wind farm in the city of Pori.

Anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2014, the wind farm will have a production capacity of 54 MW for twelve structures.

S Group and St1 are jointly investing 75 million euros in the project.

TuuliWatti's goal is to build a 500 MW wind power generation capacity in the coming years, equivalent to 20 per cent of the Finnish wind power target for 2020.



Co-op Atlantic opens new feed mill

In November 2012, Co-op Atlantic (Canada) opened a new mill to produce animal feed in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The new facility, which required 18 months and 8 million CAD to construct, replaces an aging mill from 1946 and will greatly increase the efficiency of feed production by computerizing the preparation of feed formulations, mixing and order fulfillment in large feed trucks or individual bags.

During the official ceremony, the New Brunswick Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture,

Michael Olscamp, congratulated Co-op Atlantic for demonstrating innovation in its hi-tech animal nutrition facility.

“Co-op Atlantic has had a positive impact on our communities through its commitment to provide its producers with quality feeds”, said Minister Olscamp.

The feed mill is expected to have a production capacity of more than 35,000 tonnes per year, with the ability to mix more than 1,200 different feed formulations using some 170 different ingredients.



Marcel Garvie, President of Co-op Atlantic, said, “Our local customers, who number more than 200 large commercial farms, will get high quality animal nutrition in formulated batches using the best equipment and processes available today.”

Co-operative History

Founded in 1939, Co-op Jerusalem was originally comprised of 20 neighborhood associations that began operating grocery stores in 1942. At its inception, only members were allowed to shop in the stores, benefit from discounts and divis and enjoy the option of selling their shops as part of the association.



In 1949, all the Jerusalem associations merged into the “Consumers Cooperative Association of Jerusalem”, a move that spurred a period of expansion and growth.

In 2000, the organisation became Co-op Israel after acquiring branches of other chains and private minimarkets outside of Jerusalem.

Today, Co-op Israel is the country’s third largest chain of neighborhood supermarkets with more than 50 points of sale, hundreds of own brand products, 1,300 employees and one million customers every month.

SAVE THE DATE!

ICA Global Conference and General Assembly
1-5 November 2013

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information on any of the issues mentioned in this publication.