



news1 The 1st Co-operative Week
'Make Hope Together, Share Happiness Together'

To celebrate the 91st ICA International Co-operative Day and the 19th UN International Day of Co-operatives on July 6, the 1st Co-operative Week was held to raise public awareness on co-operatives with the theme of 'Hope to make together, happiness to share together'. It was the first commemorate week held in Korea after the enactment of

Korean Co-operative Fundamental Act in last December.



On July 3, Korean Council for Establishment of National Co-operative Association held 'policy forum for promotion of consumer co-operatives' at SK building in Seoul as the first program of Co-operative Week and about 100 people and officials from co-operatives and government attended.



On July 5, 'Meet the Authors on Co-operatives' was held by iCOOP Co-operative

Development Center (hereafter ICDC) at the Seoul Women's Plaza. With KIM Eun-nam, the reporter of SISAIN Magazine chaired KIM Seong-oh (Director of Korea Co-op Developing Center), the author of *Let's Start Co-op*, KIM Hyun-dae (reporter of

Hankyoreh Newspaper), the author of *Co-op is Good!* and JUNG Tae-in (Director of Research Institute for New Society), the author of *The Economics of Co-operation* talked about co-operatives and their books with 100 citizens. Also, the Italian films 'We Can Do That!' was presented which was made based on a true story about 11 mentally challenged people starting a co-operative and leading to success.



On the same day and following day, the main Co-operative Week event was held at the Coex Exhibition Center by Joint-promotion Committee for Co-operative Week Events which consists of Ministry of Strategy and Finance and Korea Social Enterprise Promotion Agency. iCOOP KOREA set up 2 promotional booths to introduce iCOOP KOREA's activities and provide consulting service about establishment of co-operative.

People could learn about co-operative and ethical consumerism through enjoying various programs such as quiz and dice-play, reading co-operative storybooks and drawing. ICDC organized 'A day workers' co-operative' with 9 youth for simulating of the co-operative operation from establishment to dividend return. Total 70 co-operatives in various sectors participated in the booths to promote their co-operatives at this 2-day event.



iCOOP KOREA also published 2 storybooks, *Under the Sea, Under the Sea* and *The Really Really Hot Day*, following last year. The 1st and 2nd books of the coop children storybook series, *A Very Big Storm* and *Little Otter Goes Fishing* were published last year and well received by members and the public. These children's storybooks were first produced by SNCF (Singapore National Co-operative Federation) to commemorate the International

Year of Co-operatives 2012 and iCOOP KOREA translated them in Korean.

news2 The 8th Korea –Japan Joint Rice Field Ecosystem Research Exchange was Held



With the theme of 'Protect rice farming to save our environment and life!' the 8th Korea-Japan joint rice field ecosystem research exchange was held in Chungcheongbuk-do Cheongwon-gun and Korea National University of Education from July 11 to 13. Korea Rice Paddy Network (Chairperson PARK In-ja) co-organized the event with Cheonwon Greenfrog Ssal Village and ECO Institute for Oriental Stork (ECOSOS) in Korea National University of

Education.

Reviving the meaning of *Rice Paddies and Wetlands Resolution*' adopted in 2008 Ramsar Convention, the annual event has great significance that producers, consumers and activists in Korea and Japan get together to shed light on the value of rice paddies and discuss the way to enhance its biodiversity. iCOOP KOREA received a public application of participants for the first time and 10 members and rice paddy activists from member co-ops participated in the events.

The program started in Cheongwon Beolrakhanji Village where Korean participants made rice cakes and fans with Korean traditional paper for gifts to Japanese participants. After opening ceremony on 1st day, researchers and citizen research group conducted research on the living organism at rice paddies. Presentations were followed for following 2 days, about the oriental white stork rehabilitation, rice paddies and biodiversity, selection of biological indicator species and biological evaluation index.

news3 iCOOP Annual Report Won LACP '2012 Vision Awards' Silver Award



On July 15, iCOOP KOREA's 2012 annual report won the silver award in Asia-Pacific/American NGO category (up to USD 10 million) at 2012 vision award by LACP (League of American Communication Professionals), US marketing research institute. Organized since 2001, more than 6000 companies from 24 countries

participated in the 2012 Vision Award and world-renowned writers, designers, corporate IR, financial personnel and judging committee comprehensively assessed the covers, CEO messages, contents, creativity, clarity, and information accessibility of the annual report. Total 560 annual reports won platinum, gold, silver, and bronze awards by region and business categories.

Judging Results	
<i>First Impression:</i>	28 out of 30
<i>Report Cover:</i>	10 out of 10
<i>Letter to Shareholders:</i>	10 out of 10
<i>Report Narrative:</i>	10 out of 10
<i>Report Financials:</i>	10 out of 10
<i>Creativity:</i>	10 out of 10
<i>Message Clarity:</i>	10 out of 10
<i>Information Accessibility:</i>	9 out of 10
Total Score:	97 out of 100

LACP’s judging comments on the iCOOP annual report is that the illustrations including cover page are great, and the content is very strong and successful in both capturing and maintain the interest of the target audience.

More related information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.lacp.com/2012vision/awards-annual-report-competition-icoop.htm>

iCOOP KOREA’s annual reports: <http://www.icoopkorea.coop/en/report.html>

news4 Press Conference was Held to Enforce GMO Labeling and Establish its Management Measure



On July 18, at the National Assembly building, Anti-GMO and Life Movement Solidarity, Action Center for Consumer Justice of the Citizens’ Coalition for Economic Justice, Korean Federation for Environmental Movement and Democratic Congressman HONG Jong-hak co-held a press conference against the government’s poor GMO management system in importing and distributing. The

Anti-GMO and Life Movement Solidarity is an network organization to voice their opposition against GMO products including iCOOP Consumer Activities, Korean Women Link Co-op, The Korean Wheat Protection Movement Headquarter and many other civil society organizations. .

Participants announced "Wild GM crops have been discovered repeatedly in the fields of Korea though the crops cannot be planted legally. These cases show us that GM crops fall out in the process of import and distribution, and it shows the serious insecurity problem in the management system."

"The government and political leaders fail to fulfill their responsibilities of promoting sustainable agriculture and establishing thorough management system. They have been acquiescent to indiscriminate import, distribution and spread of GM crops."

They also added "As Korea imports more than 700 tons of genetically modified corn for food and feed per year it's a serious problem that cannot be ignored." They called for an active engagement of the government and the ruling party to pass Food Sanitation Act amendment on expanding the scope of labeling to genetically modified foods and food additives so that consumers' sovereignty and food safety could be protected.

These civic groups will develop a nationwide '100,000 people's signatures' movement for prompt parliamentary passage of the Food Sanitation Act amendment.



From May to July, iCOOP KOREA had held several wheat producer-consumer joint press conferences after the government's inappropriate response to the possibility of importing GM wheat from Oregon, USA.

COOP STORE Opened Natural Dream Gangnam Daechi Store



On July 24, COOP STORE opened the first Natural Dream store in Gangnam area, one of the best-off areas in Korea. The eco-friendly organic food store sells organic products, antibiotic-free meat, domestic fisheries products, and runs Korean wheat bakery and pizza shop and a book café serving fair trade coffee. Most products are iCOOP KOREA's A mark (from A to AAA) certified, following a rigorous safety assessment with 3 steps in the process of production, before shipment and in the process of distribution based on the standard of circularity, sustainability, and biodiversity.

iCOOP bakery products are made from Korean wheat and its cake and bakery gifts are particularly made from organic certified Korean wheat. By selling freshly baked bread with Korean additive-free wheat, the bakery contributes to improve the livelihood of wheat growing farmers as well as increase food self-sufficiency rate. Inside store, a small glass-walled space was made to be used for small meetings and community gatherings. Members can also reserve tables in Book café for community meeting or club activities.



Until August, Natural Dream Gangnam Daechi store is open to non-members not to mention members and promotes various opening events such as product discounts, gift card giveaways for new members etc.

iCOOP KOREA has practiced ethical consumerism to protect not only our own health and agriculture but human rights of fair trade farmers. Members call themselves 'Yun-so-mom', which means 'Moms who practice ethical consumption'. Currently, total 138 Natural Dream stores are operated nationwide, including 52 ones in metropolitan area.