

iCOOP KOREA

iCOOP KOREA - Hanshin University, Made an Agreement on Collaboration between University and Business



In November 14th, iCOOP KOREA and Hanshin Univ. made an agreement on Collaboration between University and Business in Osan, Gyeonggi-do and the 11 interested including Bok-su SIN, chairperson of iCOOP Solidarity of Consumer Co-operatives and Su-il CHAE, the president of the Univ. attended.

On the agreement, they will establish cooperation relationship including business and technology support from Hanshin Univ., training and manpower support from the Univ., industrial and technology knowledge-sharing, and provision of training and job opportunities toward students from iCOOP KOREA.

Sin chairperson said, "The agreement recognizes the significance of cooperation between co-op and university. We will continue to seek direction for further development through this organic solidarity.

iCOOP Cooperative Institute Held the Lecture of Mr. Akira Kurimoto of CCIJ



iCOOP Cooperative Institute held an open lecture of Mr. Akira Kurimoto at the education room of iCOOP KOREA in November 17th. He, director of Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan, has wide experiences of chief researcher of Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan, Chairperson of Research Committee in ICA (2001-2005) and chief of international division in Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU).

The theme of lecture was 'trend and challenge of world co-operatives for IYC', and approx. 30 activists and staffs in iCOOP KOREA attended.

He gave lecture on a history and trends of co-operatives around the world, the position of Japanese co-operatives in the world, the background and aim of IYC, and the challenge of world co-operatives. Additionally, he introduced the current situation to celebrate IYC in Japan. According his lecture, Japanese co-operative movement is

preparing IYC with National committee, and carrying out co-operative charter review and preparation of ICA-AP general assembly.

Kurimoto added IYC focuses on co-operatives in developing countries, credit and agricultural co-operatives but, especially, co-operatives of all sectors around the world need to take actions together. He emphasized that reinforcement of management based on co-operative values and principles, cooperation with co-operatives, promotion of co-operatives business and activities, improvement of legal framework, research and statistics maintenance should be conducted.

His works, 'Co-operative Principles in the 21st Century', 'Cooperation in Lives (co-authored)' and 'Social Utility and the Future of Co-operative Infrastructure' have introduced in Korea.

iCOOP Inspection Center in Center for Korea Certification of Distribution for eco-friendly foods Association in '2011 Excellent Certificate Authorities'



iCOOP Food Inspection Center (designated NO.40) under the iCOOP Certification Center, was designated as '2011 Excellent Certificate Authorities' in November 9th and receives financial support, USD 21,527 by National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (NAQS).

The selection of high-performing authorities is government program to promote advanced environment-friendly agricultural products certification by evaluating and supporting them.

Selection criteria are actual performance, independence, follow-up result, allocation of inspection per staff, administrative measures and surveys, and all evaluated by NAQS and the evaluation board.

Meanwhile, 20 out of 74 private certification authorities were selected as outstanding authorizes this time.

iCOOP Gu-ro Co-op Held the 10th Anniversary Celebration and Conference

iCOOP KOREA's one of local co-ops, Gu-ro co-op held celebration and conference, 'The 10 year-history and vision of Gu-ro Co-op' for its 10th anniversary at Guro-gu District Office, Seoul in November 18th.

"I would like to thank all members and everyone in this community to develop Go-op Co-op." Mi-yeon LEE, chief director of the co-op said "Today, we could look back our fruitful

outcome to make a new leap forward.”



With her presentation, she announced strategic plans for next 10 years; 10,000 members (household), increase of branches and establishment of educational culture center, reinforcing autonomy and democratic operation by members, vitalization of social enterprises in Guro-gu district, workers co-op into members’ daily routine, and establishment of Gu-ro co-op center and reinforcement its roles in community.

At discussion session followed by presentation, Chan-yul JEONG, representative director of Center for Korea Certification of Distribution for eco-friendly foods Association presented ‘10 years of Gu-ro Co-op from the view of iCOOP KOREA’, Kyong-sook KIM, CEO of Kurotimes presented ‘the power of Gu-ro Co-op and its challenge’ and Eun-hee KANG, member of Gu-ro Co-op presented ‘For continuing to make history for community and society beyond ethical consumption’. Also they suggested their opinion and alternatives for future of Gu-ro Co-op.

As the last session, the 10th anniversary was held with the theme, ‘10 Years of Gu-ro Co-op, Open New Doors to Hope’. Meanwhile, on the instant survey ‘what Gu-ro Co-op could do in future’, ‘opening Korean wheat snack bar’ was ranked NO.1.

Co-operative Movement in Korea

Fair trade Festival was Held in In-cheon city



Organized by In-cheon City, Fair trade Festival was held at central plaza of Shinsegae department store in October 29th and approx. 10,000 came to this festival.

This 1st fair trade festival in In-cheon city was designated to promote fair trade and fair trade organizations and their products to In-cheon citizens.

At the festival, iCOOP In-cheon Co-op and other 6 fair trade organizations (Sharing Happiness, Green Co-op, Fare Trade Korea Guru, Peace Coffee, In-cheon Future Plaza and Ullim Fair Trade Shop) prepared their own introductory programs and products sales as well as sampling and various experience events.

Also, with performance of quarter of In-cheon Art High School, playing folk musical instruments, children belly dance and yodel performance, there were a number of programs which citizens could enjoy, such as fair trade quiz game, lucky draw. Awards on writing competition and UCC contest were also conducted.

In this festival, the campaign group consisted by high school students who got education 4 times on fair trade by iCOOP In-cheon Co-op, played an active role of promoting.

"Out of South Korea's Fair Trade sales, USD 7.1 millions in 2009, turnover of for-profit enterprises that import and sell FLO-certified products is USD 2.3 millions and turnover of non-profit organizations is USD 7.1 millions. From the total turnover of non-profit organizations, iCOOP KOREA and Dure Co-op count for 36.5%. Sales of S. Korea's fair Trade in 2009 increased 113-fold compared with 2004," said Gum-su JUNG, chairperson of Fare Trade Committee in iCOOP KOREA.

Press Conference to Urge Securing Budget for Eco-Friendly and Free School Lunch



The opposition lawmakers of Education, Science and Technology Committee and civil organizations strongly urged the Government for eco-friendly and free school lunch.

Opposition members of Parliament, National Movement for Safe School Lunch, National Grassroots Solidarity for Eco-Friendly and Free School Lunch and other civil organizations had a press conference and agitate government for securing budget and revision of Law for School Meal to

achieve eco-friendly and free school lunch at the National Assembly in November 2nd.

"Currently, local governments only take charge of budget separately on eco-friendly and free school lunch. This structure which depends on local governments' circumstances could be possible that benefits are not distributed to all students equally. To solve this problem, the 2012 year's budget should reflect this plan and government should work for revision of the law to apply the contents to implement eco-friendly and free school lunch." they said.

iCOOP KOREA has been playing a key role in the social movements for Eco-friendly and free school lunch, which promotes not only to deliver healthy foods for school students but also to support local agriculture, environment and economy of local communities. Since establishment of the Seoul headquarter for Promotion Movement of Eco-friendly and free school lunch on Feb.18th 2010, Campaign for petition of 7.5 million citizens and Social Agreement declaration for Eco-friendly and free school lunch have been carried on. In April, iCOOP KOREA held an event to celebrate the launch of 'the iCOOP Campaign Headquarters for Eco-friendly Free School Meals', where it announced a declaration that emphasized the importance of putting eco-friendly free school meals into practice. This is only one example of iCOOP's many social activities to encourage ordinary people to get their hands on eco-friendly produce.