



news1 The 1st iCOOP Community College Started



On June 24 and 25, the entrance ceremony and workshop for the 1st iCOOP civil co-operation college was held at the Korea National Park Eco-learning Institute.

The aims of iCOOP Community College are 1) to continue

discovering and developing co-operatives' leaders and member activists systematically, 2) to study iCOOP KOREA's history and experience to share the implicit meaning, 3) to explore the future of consumers co-operatives with the times and 4) to develop leaders' capacity in democratic and business skills.

Following the ceremony, the talk concert of JIN, Kyoung-hee (former chairperson of iCOOP UNION) was held. Participants could hear iCOOP KOREA's vivid history from her and learned how to express and manage their feelings in

society.

The college started with the lecture "Human beings, the pursuit of learning and growth" of Prof.KIM Chan-ho. The 2nd lecture followed with the title, "What is Philosophy and why do we need it".

The total 2-year programs of Community College consists of humanities, democratic leadership, political economy, and management leadership courses. At the 1st semester, total 32 participants will have lectures on philosophy, literature, history and culture.

news2

iCOOP KOREA Held Gurye Wheat Festival

On June 1 and 2, Gurye wheat festival was held at Gurye-gun, Jellanam-do province, and total 2000 members, members' families and community people came together.

iCOOP KOREA has promoted the production and supply of Korean native wheat

including Korean wheat festival since 2003, which has been organized for the sustainable consumption of agricultural products and exchange between consumers and producers. Especially, this year celebrated the 11th anniversary of the event.

With the theme "memories and hopes in wheat field", adults could enjoy recalling their childhood memories in wheat fields and children could experience various activities such as having wheat cake and enjoying traditional Korean games. Most programs were for families and community people and they took pictures had Korean wheat foods and enjoyed mini concert.

The tour of iCOOP Ramen (noodle) factory located in Natural Dream Park, was one of the popular programs. Visitors could check how iCOOP KOREA's products are made with their own eyes. The festival ended with cultural tour in Gurye and Suncheon-city.





Total 8 member activists and staffs of iCOOP KOREA and a reporter of Hankyoreh newspaper visited Saskatchewan, Canada to study co-operatives from May 25 to June 4.

First of all, the delegation visited Federated Co-operative Limited(FCL),

and could understand their business and activities to hear FCL's current status, management, leadership development and oil refining business and to visit modern distribution center.

The delegation could learn general information on co-operatives in Canada and Saskatchewan from experts of Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, and Harold Chapman, the pioneer of Saskatchewan co-operative movement.

One of their important aims was to look how co-operatives have contributed to the community in Saskatchewan. The delegation could achieve the aim through visiting Saskatoon Community Clinic which promotes various services for the community, Athlete's Village Housing Co-operative in Vancouver where members share vegetable garden on the roof and communicate each other through committees, Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre' in Saskatoon which communities together funded store, clinics, café, space for moms and children and so on, and Saskatoon Farmers' Market where local farmers directly participate in.

They also visited the Lake Lenore, a co-operative town. With a small 350 population, they have total 7 co-operatives. Local Advantage Credit Union supported 4 kids every year to participate in Co-operative Youth Program organized by Saskatchewan Co-operative Association. There is only one grocery store in the town, opened by community people. They also repaired and renovated the store together with the support of local agricultural co-ops and credit unions.

Through the study tour, the delegation learned the balance of businesses and

activities, members' democratic communication and decision making as owners of co-ops, and the significance of member education, especially for future generation.

news4

The Hearing was Held for Establishment of Standards for Protection against Radiation



On June 5, iCOOP KOREA held the hearing about establishment of standards for protection against radiation in Dae-jeon city and 100 people including representatives from member co-ops, and staffs of iCOOP Certification Center and product department

attended.

“iCOOP KOREA which has endeavored to heighten social standards on food, will also engage in establishing reasonable standards against radiation.”, SHIN Bok-su, the chairperson of iCOOP UNION said.

LEE Young-mi, the manager of product activity team, briefed on progress report and added that we should enhance manageability and unclose information so that members could participate in decision making.

Staffs of product department reported on radiation test status after the Fukushima nuclear accident. BAK Seung-hwan, the manager of iCOOP Certification Center explained about radiation and current national system specifically, and placed importance on iCOOP KOREA's own radiation management standard besides national one.

According to his explanation, iCOOP KOREA will follow both national and iCOOP KOREA's standard, and all the regular inspections results conducted by regions will be open to members. He added radiation is hard to be detected in the same way other product inspections and provided proper evidence national standard hasn't been developed sufficiently compared to the radiation exposure level in real life.

Representatives from member co-ops said more rigorous standards for food safety will be needed to put pressure on the national standards and further anti-nuclear movement.

Based on the members' opinion, iCOOP KOREA's standards for protection against radiation will be made.

news5

2013 the 1st iCOOP Management Group Meeting was Held



2013 the 1st iCOOP management group meeting was held in Tsushima, Japan from June 13 to 15 and 70 representatives from members, producers, and managers from iCOOP KOREA and its subsidiaries attended. The group management meeting

is held 2-3 times a year to share the current status and discuss key policies.

In this meeting, iCOOP KOREA's entire business reports were presented and the future plans about the import of fair trade bananas, the welfare funds for member activist and the establishment of employee-owned co-operative were discussed.

By president KIM Kyun-seob, executive director of iCOOP UNION, the specific business reports of whole group were briefed including general status on member increase, sales and store business, and current progress of agreement about consumption and production, advance payments system, price stabilization fund and contract production.

With the title "what should we take priority", SIN Sung-sik, the managing director of the production part, gave a lecture on the engines of iCOOP KOREA's future progress and the pursuit of high-level of collaborative relationship.

After dinner, member activists, producers, and staffs had a group discussion on the "iCOOP KOREA's advantages and disadvantages".

On the second day, all participants discussed the keynote speeches "Import of fair trade banana" by JUNG Chan-yul, the director of product department, "Member activities' welfare fund" by GWON Mi-ock, the director of activists department and "The purpose and direction of establishment of employee-owned co-operative", by OH Hang-sik, managing director of COOP SERVICE.

After lunch, all participants took a look around Tsushima and learned the history related a lot with Korean one. The meeting finished with presentation on the result of group discussions. "This was very meaningful meeting which we think, talk and discuss together for 3 days." OH Mi-yea, the chairperson of iCOOP Consumer Activities concluded.

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