



Management Report - October 2007

CCULB: ACCESS Review & CUMI Launching



Seven credit unions expressed willingness to undergo ACCESS branding. The meeting organized by CCULB on October 23 clarified the branding process and fee structure. ACCU made clear that strong and professionally operated credit unions may have shorter ACCESS Branding process.

ACCU advised credit unions to undergo professionalization training and technical consulting from CCULB to prepare them for ACCESS branding. Meanwhile, credit unions willing to enroll in ACCESS branding were required to submit Board Resolution by November 2007 to confirm their institutional commitment to the process.

ACCU and CCULB launched the CUMI program on October 24. The name of the program was re-branded SHACTEE, which means Self-Help Advancement of Community through Economic Empowerment. The change of the program's name came up at the technical meeting on October 21 claiming that the use of the term 'microfinance' could be associated to 'micro credit', a credit driven program for the poor widely operating across Bangladesh.

CCULB will have two operational frameworks: 1) Operate on Own (triple O) and 2) Build Operate Transfer (BOT).

ACCESS and SHACTEE are programs supported by ACCU under the CCA project.

NEFSCUN Bestowed a Distinguished Service Award to ACCU CEO



NEFSCUN presented CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi of its Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his contribution to the development of credit unions in Nepal since 1994. The award was presented at the opening of the National Women's Cooperative Seminar on October 7 attended by more than 5,000 women. In collaboration with NEFSCUN, an ACCESS branding review meeting was organized on October 5-6 and Business Development Center's review meeting on October 8. The programs are aimed to strengthen the credit union system in Nepal under the leadership of NEFSCUN.

The CEO paid a courtesy visit to the cooperative registrar of Nepal Mr. Tanka Mani Sharma, who acknowledged the important role of ACCU in the development of credit unions in the region. He reiterated his support to the Asian regulator's network, one of the recommendations of the May 2007 regulators conference.

PFCCO Reviews Management Set up

Apart from reviewing the progress of the projects being supported by ACCU at the Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives, ACCU took the opportunity to share its thoughts in reviewing the management operations of the federation on October 1. The meeting concluded to strengthen the management of PFCCO by developing a clear management structure, defining staffs' job description and adopting Human Resource Management Guidelines.



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WCCS Planning Meeting Held



ACCU have been continuously providing technical assistance to the Workers Cooperative Credit Society (WCCS) in Malaysia to professionalize the operation of its areas (branches). Currently, volunteer leaders and treasurers are responsible for loan/savings collections in 400 areas of WCCS.

ACCU facilitated a planning meeting with the Board of Directors and Area Treasurers on October 26-28. Both meetings highlighted critical issues WCCS should address to become sustainable and viable financial institution.

Similar to credit unions around the world, changing people's lifestyles and living standards due to competitive market environment are posing huge challenge to WCCS operations.

Financial Products for Young Generation



ACCU and CULT presented five youth financial products in a workshop held on October 30-31 attended by select credit unions in Petchaburi Province, Thailand. The credit unions accepted the five products developed by ACCU. ACCU and CULT plan to:

- Refine the product design based on the inputs of credit unions by November 5, 2007
- Develop the mechanics of the marketing tactics to be employed by November 5, 2007
- Prepare the Product Package
- Sign MOU with partner credit unions by December 2008
- Launch the program by January 2008

CULT and ACCU anticipate the program to generate dynamism and excitement within the credit union. Agriterra supports this initiative.



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Exposure Program to CULROC-Taiwan, November 4-10, 2007 Postponed

CULROC has announced the postponement of its Exposure Program scheduled on November 4-10, 2007 due to low turn out of participants. The program is always organized in the month of November. Member organizations of ACCU can prepare their participants in advance for next year's program.

Training on CUMI Banking System

Due to low turn out of participants, ACCU has postponed the training on CUMI Banking System scheduled on December 3-10, 2007 in Bangkok. ACCU plans to implement 'in-country' training instead of regional program. ACCU will offer the training to member organizations based on need. Cordaid, the Netherlands, supports the development of the Software.

Regional CUDCC on December 3-10, 2007 in Thailand

Confirmation letters for the directors attending the Credit Union Directors Competency Course in Bangkok has been sent out. Registration to the course closes on November 15, 2007.

South Asian Sub-Regional Workshop in Nepal, February 6-8, 2008

ACCU has announced the South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop on the theme: Savings and Credit Cooperatives and Sustainable Development that will be organized by USC-Nepal in collaboration with ACCU and NEFSCUN on February 6-8, 2008 in Nepal. Registration to the workshop is open until December 31, 2007. Since 2005, USC-Nepal has supported the program aimed at promoting the value of savings and credit cooperatives. It also aimed to build partnerships with organizations promoting savings and credit cooperatives as sustainable approach in people's development. For more information, please contact ACCU: accu@aaccu.coop.

Asian Credit Union Forum 2008 in Dhaka, Bangladesh



ACCU started the preparation for the 2008 Asian Credit Union Forum in Dhaka, Bangladesh on September 21-28 hosted by the Cooperative Credit Union League of Bangladesh (CCULB). In the recent visit in Dhaka, ACCU CEO oriented the Board and management of CCULB on the host's responsibilities. CCULB assured their full support for the success of the Forum.

The CEO also visited the Ministry and Registrar of Cooperatives. The Secretary and Registrar of Cooperatives committed their support to CCULB to ensure the success of the Forum in 2008. Both officers were thankful to ACCU for choosing Bangladesh as venue for this prestigious event.

First CEOs Exposure Program to Canada

Preparation for the first CEO Exposure to Canada on November 12-21, 2007 has been finalized. The Canadian Co-operative Association under the current project with ACCU supports the program. Four CEOs (Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Bangladesh) are joining the study tour covering areas on Stabilization Fund, regulatory environment, information technology, mergers, and operations of credit union federations.