

MANAGEMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2008

ACCU Semi-annual Evaluation & Planning Held



The management of ACCU on December 2-3 in Bangkok had an early evaluation and planning session. The meeting came up with suggestions on the strategic direction of ACCU. It was emphasized that ACCU intervention to members should result to significant contribution of credit unions to poverty alleviation. The management has focused on the working document for the Strategic Planning of ACCU for the year 2009 to 2014. The board of directors of ACCU will be finalizing the plan in their April 2009 meeting.

MOU for the New Project in Laos Signed



The MOU for the promotion of credit unions in the 3 northern provinces of Luang Prabang in Laos was finally signed with the Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) and Integrated Rural Department on December 11. The project supported by Agriterra of the Netherlands has a target of organizing five credit unions in each of the province of Xayaboury, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay.

The new project is in addition to the current project in Luang Prabang, which targets to transform five credit unions into full pledged cooperative financial institutions. Agriterra supports both projects.

Technical Collaboration with SANASA

In order to further the impact of SANASA (credit unions) in Sri Lanka, various technical collaboration activities were supported by ACCU during December 14-22. Some of these activities were carried out to warrant enabling policy environment for credit unions, professionalize the operation of credit unions through the application of modern management technologies, and review of Bylaws and policies of the federation to cope with the challenges of the current market environment. During the period, the CEO of ACCU had consultation with the Secretary of ACCU, Mr. M. Gunarathna Perera.

Progress Review: CU Promotion in Cambodia



ACCU Project Assistant conducted a progress review and consultation for the credit union promotion program of the two partners in Cambodia - SEDOC and FLIFLY. The consultation meeting with the leaders revealed areas requiring improvements on the operation of credit unions such as loan granting, savings mobilization and accounting. SEDOC is preparing the registration of six CBFI (Community Based Financial Institution) under the Ministry of Agriculture.

For 2009, both partners will be strengthening the accounting and reporting system of CBFIs. Meanwhile, the leaders of CBFIs recognized the importance of professionally run credit unions in order to grow and sustain and thus, training interventions would be required in the coming year.



MANAGEMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2008

CU Promotion Planning Session in CSS Pakistan



As part of the short-term project supported by the Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU), ACCU carried out a four day planning meeting with the Catholic Social Service (CSS) in Pakistan. The project target is to strengthen the existing 15 savings and credit cooperatives and organize a national federation for SCCs that will be responsible in continuing the promotion and strengthening of credit unions in Pakistan. ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi facilitated a two days planning workshop in Karachi on December 27-28 attended by 30 volunteer trainers and leaders from credit unions.

The project will build up pool of trainers and technical people who could develop the skills of SCC Board and staff. CCS, an Affiliate member of ACCU serves as ACCU partner in the project.

Asian CU Forum 2009 Preparations Ongoing

Identification of the 2009 Asian Credit Union Forum venue has started as early as October 2008. ACCU and the hosts, Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT) and the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand (FSCT) have shortlisted two potential venues of the forum. The three parties primarily consider affordability of the conference package while maintaining high standards of the forum. Both hosts indicated their support to ensure the success of the Forum and memorable stay of attendees in Thailand.

Mark your calendar!

- **September 21-23** Pre-Forum Workshops (CEOs, HRD, Women and Youth)
- **September 24-26** Asian Credit Union Forum

ACCESS Branding Auditors Training All Set

Confirmation letters were sent to the participants of ACCESS Branding Auditors Training on January 25-31, 2009 (inclusive of arrival and departure) in Bangkok, Thailand. The training will be organized with the support CORDAID, the Netherlands, Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), and the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand (FSCT). As of January 5, 46 participants have confirmed from 12 countries.