



Management Report - February 2008

Sustainable Development through Credit Unions Stressed at Sub-Regional Workshop in Nepal



USC-Nepal continues to demonstrate its commitment to promote savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOS) as sustainable approach to poverty alleviation. The annual South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop was held on February 6-8 in Dhulikel, Nepal with the technical assistance of ACCU. International and local NGOs attending the conference realized the role of credit unions in helping members build their wealth making it possible for them to get out of poverty. Remarkably, attendees appreciated the credit union purpose of guiding members achieve financial independence.

Officers of the Cooperative Department in Nepal Hone Skills on PEARLS



ACCU and the Department of Cooperatives (DOC) of Nepal organized training on the Monitoring and Supervision of SACCOS on February 10-11 in Kathmandu. Sixty officers of the DOC were trained on PEARLS monitoring system developed by WOCCU. DOC registrar, Mr. Tanka Mani Sharma issued a circular stating that all SACCOS should use PEARLS as its monitoring tool. Mr. Sharma, after attending the 2007 Regulators Conference also incorporated the establishment of Stabilization Fund in the 3-year plan of DOC. Cordaid supports ACCU in promoting enabling regulatory environment for credit unions throughout Asia.



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2nd CULT Exposure Program



Eight countries (Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand) are represented at the 2nd CULT Exposure on Credit Unions Development through Business Development Center held on February 21-27 in Bangkok, Thailand. Twenty-six participants enjoyed the renowned Thai hospitality while learning the operation of BDC in supporting the sustainability of members engaged in small businesses. ACCU was happy to impart the concept of BDC as providing capital for enterprises; education and developing habit of thrift would not guarantee members' sustainability. Equally important is the provision of support through BDCs to help members engage in demand driven and high quality products/service, and connect them to the market.

Planning Session for the Newly Elected Board of NEFSCUN

ACCU assisted the newly elected Board of Directors of NEFSCUN in reviewing the achievements of Nepal Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCOS) Movement on February 5 to 6. The Board recognized the need for SACCOS to build its capacity to achieve growth in membership and capital. The Board realized the vital task of the federation in building the competence of SACCOS through the services it provides. The two-day workshop identified management tools (policies/procedures) the federation has to adopt for effective and efficient operation. The workshop also defined the Strategic Plan that addresses various issues on membership and services to SACCOS.

Project Monitoring in Nepal and Bangladesh

ACCU carried out review meeting on ACCESS and CUMI implementation in Nepal and Bangladesh on February 8-12 and February 24-25 respectively. Seven partner credit unions in Nepal have registered and paid technical fee for ACCESS accreditation. The meeting in Nepal emphasized the need for NEFSCUN to provide timely assistance to SACCOS to achieve ACCESS brand at reasonable period. Meanwhile, CCULB will also ensure services are provided to two credit unions enrolled in ACCESS Branding. ACCU works with CCULB and NEFSCUN to keep the CUMI evolving and adopted in credit unions to increase outreach of the 'have less' segment of the market.



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Credit Union Promotion Project in Lao PDR

ACCU CEO and Agriterra representative, Michiel Bourgoni met SNV Lao and Bank of Lao PDR (BOL) on February 16-19 in Vientiane. The meeting with SNV Lao discussed the implementation strategies and logistical arrangements for the credit union promotion project currently in process of approval with Agriterra. ACCU also met BOL representatives as it considers the importance of the bank's involvement in the project. On February 19-20, ACCU CEO discussed with the Governor of Luang Prabang the plan of upgrading savings groups to Savings and Credit Unions (SCUs). With the support of Agriterra, ACCU is currently implementing a project in Luang Prabang in partnership with the provincial government. Meanwhile, another project will be opened for the southern part of Laos to organize credit unions and a 2nd tier organization.

Orientation of CCULB New Board of Directors

ACCU provided an input to the CCULB Board orientation held on February 23 in Dhaka. Becoming aware on the issues confronting credit unions has made Directors in the best position to identify the strategic direction of CCULB. Building teamwork, Board and management effective working relationships, and board functions are some of the important topics discussed by ACCU to the board of CCULB.

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ACCU 63rd Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting book for the 63rd Board of Directors Meeting on March 26-29, 2008 is being prepared. The Board usually receives the meeting book at least two weeks prior to the meeting. NACUFOK hosts the meeting in Korea.

CEOs Workshop, March 24-28

ACCU and NACUFOK are preparing for the CEOs Workshop scheduled on March 24-28, 2008 in Korea. The workshop will be participated by CEOs of member organizations. The workshop is focused on an extensive study of the Korean credit union system. The National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK) hosts the workshop.

Educational Opportunities on your fingertips . . .

- 10th Asian Development Education Workshop on June 13-18, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The early bird registration is by March 15, 2008
- Credit Union CEOs Competency Course on June 22-29, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand; Early Bird Registration by March 31, 2008
- The 22nd NACUFOK Exposure Program, April 21-26, 2008 – open for ACCU member organizations. Please submit application to ACCU not later than March 21, 2008. The application will be on a first come first served basis. Please note that one country can select three people as far as this program is concerned.

For more information, please e-mail us at: accu@accu.coop