



Management Report - September 2007

Mr. Oh-man Kwon becomes the 14th President of ACCU

Mr. Oh-man Kwon, President of NACUFOK assumed the President position of ACCU after the resignation of Assoc. Prof. Sawat Saengbangpla, PH.D. on September 19, 2007. Dr. Sawat turned over the chain of office to the new President, Mr. Kwon at the opening program of the Forum on September 21.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the 2nd Vice-President, Mr. P.M. Sitanggang assumed the position of the 1st Vice-President and the vacancy was filled by the Alternate Board Member, Mr. Michael Koisen. The remaining Board shall reassign the positions in the next Board meeting. The present Board will serve until September 2008.



Preparatory Work on Stabilization Fund in the Philippines Commence

Considering the legal framework and the preparatory steps taken to professionalize the operations of credit unions, NATCCO and PFCCO volunteered to take the challenge of piloting Stabilization Fund in the Philippines. A national seminar attended by 50 leaders and managers of leading credit unions was held on September 29. The technical planning meeting on September 30 outlined the action steps leading to the preparation of Feasibility Study. The exercise was supported by Desjardins International Development through its expert Mr. Michel Belanger. It is anticipated that by the first half of 2008, the Feasibility Study will be completed.

PFCCO and NATCCO strongly feel the need for Stabilization Fund. The COOP-PESOS, Standard Chart of Accounts and Standard Auditing Systems and Procedures required by government for credit unions are some of the positive aspects for Philippine cooperatives to proceed to the next level. Meanwhile, the Memorandum of Rules and Regulations for Savings and Credit Cooperatives, to be signed into law by the President of the Philippines, is hoped to boost the enabling environment for credit unions. PFCCO and NATCCO have institutionalized their support mechanisms to professionalize credit union operations enabling them to meet the standards set by the regulations.



Michel Belanger and Ranjith

Vietnamese Credit Union Leaders Visit Credit Unions in Thailand

ACCU welcomed the 45 delegation from the network of Central People's Credit Fund in Vietnam on September 7. The group studied the operations of Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT) and Klongchan Credit Union. Credit unions in Vietnam are called People's Credit Fund (PCF). Currently, CCF has a network of 938 PCFs with total membership of 1,098,754.



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Asian Credit Union Forum 2008 in Bali



A million thanks to all of you!

The Asian Credit Union Forum on the theme Recreating Credit Union Superior Value was attended by 347 participants from 24 countries. The resource persons focused on innovation as the best way of creating value. The forum featured prominent line-up of speakers who addressed most essential topics. The management of ACCU will review the forum recommendations at its semi-annual planning meeting in October 2007. ACCU anticipates that its member organizations will also incorporate the recommendations in their work plans and programs. As agreed by the CEOs Advisory meeting, the implementation scorecard will be reported back in the 2008 Asian Credit Union Forum.

The ACCU Board and Management are very grateful to all members, development partners and participants for attending and supporting the Forum. The Annual Asian Credit Union Forums have been very successful because of your support and cooperation.



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CU Development Issues tackled at Pre-Conference Workshops



Women



CEOs



Youth



HRD

Economic Empowerment for Women

The Workshop on Women Economic Empowerment Programs in Credit Unions was held on September 17 to 19, 2007. The workshop reviewed the achievement on women empowerment and policy environment for women leadership participation and economic empowerment in credit unions. The 41 participants formulated recommendations for strengthening women economic empowerment programs in the credit unions.

First-Rate Performance for CEOs

ACCUCU has developed Credit Union Solution No. 6 - Credit Union CEO's Competency Course (CUCCC). In addition to the training, it is important for CEOs to have toolkit serving as their companion on the day-to-day performance of their duties. At this year's workshop, the CEOs started building its own Toolkit as an essential instrument for ensuring first-rate performance. The CEOs also recognized the need for continuing professional education to keep them abreast of the new management innovations. The CEOs committed themselves to bring one management innovation in every CEO Advisory.

CU Lasting Relationship with Youth

The 7th Regional Credit Union Youth Marketing on September 17-19 recommended a roadmap in building lasting relationships with young members of credit unions. Currently, credit unions are not reaching significant number of youth in membership and leadership. The twenty-nine participants recognized the importance of reaching the youth market for the sustainability of credit unions.

ACCESS Branding for HRD

Attended by 50 participants, the HRD workshop recognized ACCESS as a very comprehensive diagnostic tool to assess the total performance of Credit Unions. The participants also stressed that ACCESS can identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps to be instituted to the Credit Unions in terms of Policies, Systems and Procedures and Toolkits. They also recognized ACCESS could improve credit unions in terms of market reach and impact to the community and the country as a whole. The participants requested their national federation to adopt a national policy for credit unions to use ACCESS as monitoring tool.



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ACCU Board and AGM held in Bali

The 62nd Board Meeting and 26th Annual General Meeting of ACCU were successfully carried out in Bali, Indonesia on September 19 and September 23 respectively. Both meetings were well attended by members. The 63rd Board of Directors meeting is scheduled on March 29-31, 2008 in Korea while the 27th Annual General Meeting will be held on September 27, 2008 in Bangladesh. The General Meeting also approved the dates of the 2008 pre-conference Workshops on September 21-23 and the Asian Credit Union Forum on September 24-26.

CEOs Advisory Meeting

The CEO Advisory meeting was held in conjunction with the Asian Credit Union Forum on September 18 in Bali. The meeting provided inputs on credit union development issues and brainstorm on the best option how these issues could be responded jointly by ACCU and its member organizations. The next CEOs' meeting is scheduled on March 24-28, 2008. With the invitation of NACUFOK, the meeting will be held in Korea.

Learning Opportunities Presented to Members

Regional Credit Union Directors Competency Course, December 3-10, 2007

The promotional brochure for the regional Credit Union Directors Competency Course was circulated to all members. The course will be organized on December 3-10, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. As an added value to the program, participants are attending the International Credit Union Day celebration of the credit union movement in Thailand on December 9. The early bird registration is by October 15. Last day of application is on November 15. For more information, please e-mail us at: accu@aaccu.coop.

Training on CUMI Banking System, December 3-7, 2007

ACCU will conduct the first training on CUMI Banking System on December 3-7. The training will introduce the CUMI Banking Systems to ACCU member organization. The system captures and reports information on the impact of the program to members.

The training will provide necessary skills, competencies and confidence to manage the day-to-day operation of CUMI software. The participants will also get the chance to join the ICU Day Celebration of the credit union movement of Thailand on December 8 and 9.

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

The CULROC's Exposure Program will be attended by CEOs, directors, senior staffs of credit unions, leagues, national associations and credit union organizations of ACCU member organizations. Application should be submitted to CULROC on or before October 19, 2007: geoff@culroc.org.tw or culroc@ms10.hinet.net

Workshop Recommendations

September 17-19, 2007 Bali, Indonesia

Youth Workshop

	Credit Union Level	Federation Level
Generation Y – Kids and Teens 0-12	Promotion of Youth Bee/Education Savings/Daily Savings/Birthday Savings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommend to the CU to implement Youth Programs such as Youth Bee, CU to School and Youth Camp for 0-12 years 2. Ask the government to include in the elementary school curriculum about credit unions (campus coops)
Generation Y – Teens 13-19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion of Smarteens 2. Scholarship and Bursary Programs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion of Youth Camp, Youth Forum, Outdoor Activities, etc. 2. Ask the government to include in the high school curriculum about credit unions (campus coops) 3. Trainings, Seminar and Workshops re: CU for Teenagers, e.g. IT, leadership, etc. Scholarship and Bursary Programs
Generation X – 20-35	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Committee Representative in the Board 2. Investment Savings and Loan Products Implementation of Employment Access Strategy for Youth (EASY) Program – EduLink, JobLink, MarketLink, Microfinance and Microfranchise 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Committee Representative in the Board 2. Training Programs on Management and Leadership 3. Recommend the Implementation of Employment Access Strategy for Youth (EASY) Program – EduLink, JobLink, MarketLink, Microfinance and Microfranchise

Women Workshop

1. Representation and participation in decision making in cooperatives
 - Primary level at 30% women
 - National federation a guaranteed seat in the Board
2. Financial services
 - Micro finance products for the have less
 - Monitor primary credit union on microfinance program
 - Policy and advocacy on microfinance program
3. Education and training
 - Gender sensitivity inclusion of the family in the microfinance program
 - Sponsor exposure program and livelihood
4. Human Resources and Budget
 - Paid staff focused on microfinance program
5. Business Development Services
 - Software development for data base on microfinance
 - Creation of Business Development Center
4. Every credit union should use ACCESS as its management tool. Appropriate action steps should be implemented to improve its ACCESS rating.
5. For credit unions ready for ACCESS branding, it is a must that all its Board of Directors have undergone CUDCC and its CEO and senior management undergone CUCCC
6. Technical assistance of ACCU to national federation is necessary

CEOs Workshop

1. Piloting of Stabilization Fund for the safety and soundness of credit unions
2. Institutionalization of Microfinance in all National Federations
3. Standardization of Human Resource Management System
4. Statistics and Data base consolidation
5. Youth participation in Asian Credit Union Forum
6. Exposure and Internship Program
7. Continuing professional program for CEOs
8. Development of Code of Ethics for CEOs and Board of Directors
9. National Federation scorecard for Asian Credit Union Forum Recommendations
10. CEO Internet Based meeting

HRD Workshop

1. National Federations adopt a National Policy adopting ACCESS as standards of performance for credit unions.
2. National Federations should promote ACCESS by organizing workshops
3. National Federations assist pilot credit unions to achieve ACCESS in a reasonable time frame

Asian Credit Union Forum 2007 Recommendations

September 21-22, 2007 Bali, Indonesia

Breakout Session 3: Back to the Roots

Defining Democratic Principles to Boost Business Stability of Credit Unions

1. Membership education program be given attention by the credit unions
2. Set up standard code of conducts for all credit unions and ensure monitoring mechanism
3. For the next Open Forum, highlight good practices and show case success stories of members and model leaders
4. National Federation and ACCU should come up with salaries scale standardization for managers and staff

Service to Members: The Credit Union Business with a Heart

1. Set the future direction of the credit union by adopting the prudential standards
2. National federation should promote professionalization program to all credit unions
3. Leaders should be good models - increasing their commitment and competencies.

Building a Winning Organizational Culture

1. Create a mechanism to monitor the organizational culture.
2. The monitoring mechanism should include independent outsiders.
3. Credit union should institute succession planning ensuring the commitment and competencies of leaders
4. Consider the youth program for credit union succession planning.
5. Credit union should come up with an image building plan (organizational culture change plan)

Breakout Session 2: Recreating Value through the Credit Union Difference

Product and Services Leadership: Solutions to Members Financial Problems

1. National federations develop programs and services to build credit union competence and toolkits on:
 - product development to position its P/S as solutions to members financial problems
 - assessment of credit union external environment – enabling them to respond to challenges and take advantage of opportunities presented to them
 - capturing members and potential members information i.e. market segmentation

- assessment of credit union potentials
2. ACCU assists national federations in developing tools and programs

Financial Planning: Helping Members Reach their Financial Destination

1. Training on Financial Planning for credit union staff should be provided. The National Federation with ACCU's assistance develop training module on Financial Planning.
2. Lobby with the regulators to allow credit unions provide financial planning services to members
3. National Federations adopts a national policy that credit unions should only place their money on Ethical investments.

Building Lasting Relationship with Members

1. Strengthening the network by empowering the national federation as the voice of the movement: lobbying, corporate marketing, image building etc.
2. The national forum of credit unions in the country should discuss and review the movement's strategic direction: shared vision, goals, promote one symbol or visual identity
3. Strengthening the business cooperation among cooperatives to provide national services such as national payment systems, marketing/image materials, training, group purchasing, etc.

Breakout Session 3: Recreating Value through Credit Union Safety and Soundness

Preparing Leaders with desirable Competencies: CUDCC and CUGCC

1. Offer CUDCC and CUGCC as a distance training
2. Establishment of scholarship fund on CUDCC and CUGCC enabling desirable credit unions in developing countries attend the course.

Governance Framework for Credit Unions

Every Credit Union should have procedures and policies of Good Governance in place.
(ACCESS Branding)

Stabilization Fund: Working Together to Protect the Credit Union System

1. Mobilize the Credit Union to understand the Stabilization Fund in protecting the Credit Union in the event of serious financial losses.
2. Every Credit Union must participate in Stabilization Fund.