

# ACCU *news*

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CREDIT UNION



People Helping People Help Themselves

## Asian Credit Union Forum 2010 KOREA



ACCU President at Work



Philippine Coop Summit



F.W. Raiffeisen Award





The Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions operates as a regional representative organization of credit unions and similar cooperative financial institutions in the region of Asia. ACCU is representing 35 million individual members from more than 29,000 credit unions in 20 countries in Asia. ACCU works in partnership with its member organizations [apex body of credit unions] to promote and strengthen credit unions as vehicles of community development and socioeconomic development of people.

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## Celebrate! International Credit Union Day: *October 21, 2010*

**The First Credit Union Day:** As time passed from the organization of first community based credit unions in 1849, a desire emerged to establish an annual occasion to acknowledge both the credit unions' important role in creating opportunity for their members and communities and the achievements of pioneers who laid the foundation for ongoing credit union success.

On January 17, 1927, the Credit Union League of Massachusetts celebrated the first official holiday for credit union members and workers. They selected January 17 because it was the birthday of America's "Apostle of Thrift," Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), who early credit union founders believed symbolized "the life and teaching embodied in the spirit and purpose of credit unions." Ironically, rapid growth within the North American credit union movement meant that people were either too busy to celebrate or too new to the movement to recognize the significance of the celebration. After a brief trial period, Credit Union Day quietly disappeared.

**A Second Chance:** In 1948, the U.S. Credit Union National Association (CUNA) decided to initiate a new national Credit Union Day celebration. CUNA and CUNA Mutual Insurance Society set aside the third Thursday of October as the national day of observance. By then, many more of America's credit union leaders believed there was a need for an occasion that would bring people together to reflect upon credit union history and achievements and to promote the credit union idea across the country.

Credit unions, state credit union leagues in the United States and many of the informal credit union chapters in each state were encouraged to celebrate the new holiday in some way. It was to be a time for raising funds for movement causes and to pay homage to the men and women who had dedicated their lives to credit union development.



**Sending a Message Around the World**  
During the 1950s, CUNA's World Extension Department provided technical assistance and philosophical guidance for credit union development worldwide. So many countries had established credit union movements by 1964 that CUNA formally expanded its mission and launched CUNA International. New movements joined the credit union family each year, and an increasing number of people were interested in celebrating their uniqueness and unity with a special holiday that could be enjoyed by everyone—regardless of religion, political beliefs, cultural differences or language. Many

credit unions and leagues began to distribute publications, banners, slogans and kits, and Credit Union Day became an international celebration.

By 1971, substantial worldwide credit union progress led to the creation of World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) to assist others in establishing and maintaining viable credit union movements in countries across the globe. In Canada, Australia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, New Zealand, Great Britain and the South Pacific, national and regional credit union federations and confederations were established to support and endorse credit union development. WOCCU created the first International Credit Union Day materials more than 30 years ago, and they continue to provide ICU Day resources to credit unions and associations throughout the world today.

**Where and How We Celebrate Today:** Members around the world celebrate this special day in a number of ways. Some sponsor open houses, picnics, fairs, festivals and parades; others hold athletic competitions and essay or art contests for young members. As your credit union joins in this unique and exciting celebration, remember that you are joined by more than 186 million members in 97 countries who also recognize and celebrate the credit union difference!

**Source:** <http://www.woccu.org/events/icuday/history>



## First CUMI Performance Award Bestowed to Two Credit Unions



Bindhavasini Savings Co-operative Society (BISCOL) from Nepal and Paglaum Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PMPC) from the Philippines were the first to receive the CUMI Performance Award. Bestowed in the presence of 277 credit union leaders in 25 countries at the Asian Credit Union Forum in Korea, BISCOL Chair Mr. Bharat Pd. Sharama and PMPC General Manager Gadwin Handumon were elated receiving such recognition at Asian level.

ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi indicated that the award was bestowed in recognition of the credit unions' fulfillment of its social responsibility by offering opportunities to low-income and disadvantaged communities through the provision of affordable financial services, education on the value of thrift and generating means to create wealth for 'have less' families.

BISCOL has made an enormous change on the lives of 6,000 women reached by its CUMI program. According to International Humanist and Ethical Union, Nepalese women are the victims of many forms of discrimination stemming from the patriarchy, fatalism, and superstition nurtured by Hinduism for thousands of years. Hence, religion dictates every aspect of life, and regulates the lives of Nepalese women in particular. Caste and untouchability retain a strong hold on society. Superstition is common. The CUMI program of BISCOL is an integrated approach on empowering women. Besides access to financial services, women are able to participate in decision making in their groups and some groups even built their own facility for education and networking.

**WITH HONOR & PRIDE:** Dr. Ian MacPherson, a historian and Founder of the Canadian Social Economy Hub and former ACCU President Mr. John F. Rodrigues hand over the Award Plaque to PMPC GM Mr. Gadwin Handumon (left photo) and BISCOL Chair Mr. Sharma (right photo), as their respective Federation's officers join them on stage at the Asian Credit Union Forum in Korea.

Meanwhile, PMPC reaches out to the hinterland communities to plant the cooperative values and principles. Unbelievable it may seem, but these groups of people reached by the microfinance program of PMPC are those who do not have access to formal financial institutions, people with disabilities, indigenous people and those living in communities not reached by development infrastructures such as road and electricity. Mr. Handumon shared that his field staffs have to travel by horse to deliver the services of PMPC to the remotest villages. He indicated that PMPC is willing to reach out to people who need cooperative services the most – they are the poor and disadvantaged – now 30,000 members.

ACCU launched the CUMI Performance Award to recognize credit unions and cooperatives demonstrating commitment to the original mission of 'people helping people help themselves' and creating a significant impact in reaching the poor as credit unions' contribution to MDGs. ACCU is also intensifying credit unions role on poverty alleviation for the meaningful celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives 2012. CUMI which stands for Credit Union Microfinance Innovation is targeting to reach additional 1 million 'have less' by 2012.

## F.W. Raiffeisen Award for Dr. Supachai, a Deserving CU Leader

ACCU bestowed the F.W. Raiffeisen Award to Dr. Supachai Srisupaaksorn at the opening of the Asian Credit Union Forum in Korea on September 8. The award represents ACCU recognition of Dr. Supachai's exemplary contributions to credit unions in his country and internationally through leadership, accomplishments, community involvement, and innovation. Dr. Supachai is an outstanding credit union leader who exemplifies the qualities lived by the founder of credit unions F.W. Raiffeisen. Like Raiffeisen, he has proven evidence that he is a social revolutionist, as credit union pioneer, a helper of humanity and a farseeing organizer of economic forces. The human misery has generated his ideas in supporting helpless individuals through credit union means. Through his initiative, ACCU receives a donation for office facility plus office furniture with an approximate value of 2 million baht.



**UNCONDITIONAL ACTS OF HUMANITY:** F.W. Raiffeisen Awardee Dr. Supachai Srisupaaksorn congratulated by his fellow Thais after receiving the award at the opening of the Asian Credit Union Forum. His acts of humanity is recognized by His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej bestowing him The Most Admirable Order of Direkgunabhorn. ACCU has recognized his contribution to Asian credit unions by giving him the 2008 Recognition Award. F.W. Raiffeisen Award is a special recognition for his acts of humanity and persistent efforts to promote credit union values and philosophy nationally and internationally.

## Bronze ACCESS Brand Awarded to 3 Cooperatives in the Philippines

After three years of preparation, San Jose Koop and Manatal MPC from PFCCO and St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative from NATCCO were given Bronze ACCESS accreditation valid until August 31, 2011. These cooperatives have established and applied a management system that can channel the energies, abilities, and specific knowledge held by people in the organization toward achieving long-term strategic goals on the perspectives of Finance, Customer-Member, Internal Business Processes, and Learning and Growth. In partnership with the Canadian Co-operative Association, ACCU piloted 4 credit unions in the Philippines and 7 in Nepal. ACCU and its member organizations are providing



technical support to the eight credit unions to reach the standards. Branded coops have to maintain the standards or improve bringing them to the next level of accreditation. As a long term goal, national federations establish their own branding department to uphold safety and soundness of the credit union system.





## 25 Countries Represented *at the Asian Credit Union Forum in Korea*



The forum was a three-day credit union professional development and networking hosted by the National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK) on September 7 to 9 in Seoul. The theme of this year's forum was Unveiling the 50 Years Achievement and Innovation of the Korean Credit Union System.

The forum featured resource persons from the best and the brightest in credit union industry across the world. Breakout session presenters were selected from competent Korean credit union practitioners and international experts in the field. The learning tracks represented high interest issues such as Governance, Products and Services and Organizational Culture. The forum drew 277 credit union leaders and professionals from 25 countries in Asia and other parts of the world. Recommendations emanating from the topics discussed by resource persons were adopted at the closing program. Addressed to all levels, ACCU considers these recommendations as inputs to its programming. The forum is another means for ACCU and its member organizations to solicit inputs pertinent to the current needs and issues faced by credit unions.

The opening program featured the speech of the chief guest Mr. Sang-Ho Lee, a credit union pioneer in Korea and past ACCU President. He shared his reminiscence of ACCU formative years and cited the contributions of the credit union pioneers in different parts of Asia. "I am very happy of what ACCU has become and its member affiliates. I am very grateful of the opportunity being part of ACCU formative years," admitted Mr. Lee.

The keynote speech of Dr. Joon-Kyung Kim Professor of the Korean Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management provided vital lessons not only in credit unions but on how the country has evolved to be one of the most developed economies in Asia and in the world. He attributed the economic growth to the desire of its people to rise above hardships and poverty after the Korean War ended in 1953. Korea is cited by the World Bank as one of successful countries with relatively low income inequality and rapid growth. As important, credit cooperatives aimed at assisting low-income people also contributed to the "shared growth." He stressed that the objective of the first credit union is to provide members with the way to save in order to encourage the diligence and prudence. By doing so, pooling the resources to be able to provide loans at fair interest rates for productive purpose in a way that serves mutual benefits of the credit union members. These missions of credit union is still lived and demonstrated in today's modern credit unions, he revealed. Dr. Joon emphasized that Korea was able to successfully introduce self-help credit unions through a bottom-up approach without government support. Korean poor people were able to have a real deposit account for the first time. Although the amount of saving may have been small, it provided a sense of being part of the greater society, instilling further hope and confidence for better future.

Mr. Tae-Jong Zhang, President and Chairman of NACUFOK shared at the concluding plenary that the Korean credit unions has 5.51 million members in 973 credit unions, managing an assets of



# Unveiling the 50 Years Korean Credit Union Achievements & Innovations



US\$ 37 billion and employ 17,700 qualified executive staff. “We will never be satisfied with the financial services we are offering now, but thrive to be the credit union which create, develop and design brand-new cooperative’s community value,” said Mr. Zhang. For the future of Korean credit unions, Mr. Zhang indicated that they are targeting US\$ 100 billion Assets, 10 million members, ROA of more than 1% and number one ranking in cooperative reliability.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Ian MacPherson, Founder and Co-Director of the Canadian Social Economy Hub highlighted that “while there is much wealth in Asia and more people are entering the middle class than ever before, some 900,000,000 Asians (about 15% of the world’s population – it is not just an Asian “problem”) still live in poverty. In other words, across the region, there is an unequal distribution of wealth in which the spread from poor to rich is still widening, just as similar bursts of economic growth in the past in Asia and elsewhere have produced unsustainable and inexcusable income differentiations.”

The forum had five plenary sessions and 12 breakout sessions. It culminated with recommendations addressed at all levels. ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi explained that the forum, as well as the pre-forum workshops has served as platform for credit unions to put their heads together to find solutions to the current and perceived challenges of credit unions across Asia. On the sidelines, the forum is also a good opportunity for credit union leaders and professionals to share experience and value friendship given the Asian diversity in culture, religion and economic maturity.





## Pre-Forum Workshops in Korea *Introduce New CU Business Solutions*

ACCU has four advisory committees in its structure: CEOs, Human Resource, Youth and Women. The committees are established to provide inputs to the Board and management on the critical issues affecting the growth and sustainability of credit unions in Asia. For the past 30 years, these committees have provided significant recommendations that evolved as programs and then institutionalized as service of ACCU. On an annual basis, the committees meet prior to the forum to discuss cross cutting issues or strategies that will boost the relevance of credit unions in Asia.



### CEOs:

Attended by 22 CEOs and designated representatives of member organizations, the workshop introduced Guidelines for Excellence in Management. The workshop provided clear and unqualified guidance regarding how to practice best management. The CEOs were able to compare organizational practices with guidelines. When they disagree, the CEOs identified the reasons and why the disagreement is justified or to modify the practice. Adoption of the guidelines concluded the workshop.

### YOUTH AND WOMEN:

Twenty one youth and women attended this year's joint workshop on Credit Union Leadership. The workshop provided an opportunity to analyze the leadership involvement, issues and future direction of women and youth in credit unions. The recommendations are inputs to the development of tool for youth and women leadership in credit unions. The Youth and Women Advisory Committee is created in ACCU structure to ensure they take an active role in leadership and given equal opportunity.



### HRD:

**Thirty three** technical staff of member organizations in nine countries attended the workshop. The workshop introduced the Trainer Manual on the 360 Degrees Financial Literacy for Credit Union Members as Credit Union Business Solution 16. The training marks the start of the full deployment of the solution to member organizations. ACCU anticipates the change in the way credit union services are anchored - now mostly focused on loans rather than helping members get out of debt and become financially independent.



## 29th General Meeting *Elect New Board of Directors*



A new Board of Directors serving for two years effective September 2010 to September 2012 was elected at the 29th General Meeting held on September 10, 2010 in Korea. The following Board members were elected (above photo):

Mr. Chalernpol Dulsamphant – President, FSCT, Thailand (middle)  
 Mr. Walis Pelin – 1st Vice-President, CULROC, Taiwan ROC (2nd from right)  
 Mr. Min Raj Kadel – 2nd Vice-President, NEFSCUN, Nepal (2nd from left)  
 Mr. Tae-jong Zhang – Treasurer, NACUFOK, Korea (right most)  
 Mr. Reynaldo Gandionco – Secretary, NATCCO, Philippines (left most)

Mr. Romanus Woga of CUCO, Indonesia and Mr. John F. Rodrigues of CCULB, Bangladesh were elected alternate Board members (6 and 7 respectively).



**PRESIDENT VISIT:** *ACCU President Mr. Chalernpol Dulsamphant, on his first visit to ACCU office on September 25, made a commitment to sign an MOU between ACCU & FSCT providing access to FSCT & its affiliates on the 16 Business Solutions. He diligently understands his role in order to fulfill his duties and responsibilities to the Asian Credit Union Movement.*

## Coops in the Philippines Enriching Learning Avenues



In collaboration with ACCU, MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center in the Philippines organized the Chairpersons' and CEOs' Summit in Thailand on September 23-25.

First time held outside the Philippines, the summit was aimed at strengthening national and international linkages of cooperatives in Mindanao and enriching learning avenues in a regional credit union experience and setting.

Forty two delegates got the chance to visit Klongchan Credit Union, St. Peter Credit Union, Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives and the Credit Union League of Thailand. In particular, the delegates were impressed on the development of credit unions in Thailand and their respective federations.

The Mindanao based MASS-SPECC is a member of the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) in the Philippines. MASS-SPECC is a supporter member of ACCU.



# 10.10.10 – Philippine Cooperative Summit



## Towards a Shared Vision - "One Co-op Movement, One Vision, One Nation"

*His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Philippines (7th from left) joined by Philippine Coop legislators and regulators, international guests and organizers of the Summit 10.10.10*

Towards a Shared Vision - "One Co-op Movement, One Vision, One Nation" was the theme for this year's 10th National Co-op Summit in the Philippines. According to the Convener, the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC), the theme is an expression of the co-op sector's collective strategic direction for the next ten years - the resolve of co-operatives to firm up their contribution to the economy, to society and to nation building. PCC and the co-convener Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) indicated that the 10th Co-operative Summit seeks to concretize the 6th Co-operative Principle: "Cooperation among Co-operatives" by establishing a framework, structure and programs for business partnerships through complementation, integration and consolidation of business processes and services.

His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Philippines in his keynote address urged cooperatives to continue to fulfill its mission to help society and the nation as a whole. Cooperatives are mandated to promote democracy, just like the democracy being defended in the country the President said. Cooperatives have freedom to elect their officers and debate on issues affecting communities they are serving. He emphasized that cooperatives will succeed given a trustworthy governing body. The President gave importance on unity among cooperatives to reach their desired destination. He said the strength of one, is the strength of all and that nobody must be left behind in the development. The President reiterated to promote the cooperative principles as the solid foundation for its success.

As one of the reactors on the Cooperative Finance and Insurance sector, ACCU Manager Member Services Elenita San Roque presented the Korean credit union experience depicting the benefits of having an integrated system for financial cooperatives. The 10th National Co-operative Summit was held on the 10th of the 10th month of the year 2010 on the 10th hour of the day at the Araneta Coliseum, hosted by the Quezon City Development Council - Co-op Sector, the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC) as the Convener and Co-operative Development Authority (CDA) as Co-convener. According to the organizers, the summit was attended by approximately 10,000 cooperators.



## ACCU Supporter Membership

*- the Best way to practice the 6th Principle of 'Cooperation Among Co-operatives'*



### Welcome New Supporter Member!

Bindhavasini Savings Co-operative Society (BISCOL) has become the first supporter member of ACCU from Nepal. BISCOL is the recipient of the 2010 CUMI Performance Award for its quality outreach of more than 6,000 poor women. BISCOL also received several recognitions for its microfinance performance from two rating agencies: MIX Market and M-CRIL.

Lack of financial services throughout the country is a major problem of economic development in Nepal. Half of the population lies below the poverty line, living in rural villages where there are no banking services and facilities. Realizing the necessity of financial institution in the community, BISCOL was established on 27th Dec., 1993. BISCOL is open for learning to better serve its members, said the Chairman Mr. Bharat Sharma. It is now undergoing the ACCESS accreditation along with other 6 SACCOS in Nepal.



## NACUFOK Launches New Vision

ACCU Board of Directors, Delegates and CEOs of member organizations and international partners joined NACUFOK in celebrating its 50th Anniversary on September 7 in Seoul. The celebration highlighted the launching of the new Vision of NACUFOK and the congratulatory messages of the Korean government. The President of the Republic of Korea Mr. Lee Myung-bak made a particular mention on the contribution of credit unions in improving the lives of the poor and disadvantaged. Despite their achievements, NACUFOK and its credit union affiliates are still very much grounded.



## Reminiscing PFCCO @ 50

More than 250 cooperators attended the "PFCCO@50 Gala Night" in commemoration of its fiftieth (50th) year anniversary. The celebration held on 16th of October featured the book launching on the The Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives History, Reflections, Direction written by PFCCO's previous Director Dr. Lovenia Naces (4th from left). "It's a painstaking job, but it's worth the effort. The book is my contribution to the cooperative movement," said Dr. Naces. The book is sold for Pesos 1,000 (US\$ 24). Dr. Naces wrote the book on voluntary basis.



# TIMETABLE

## October 2010 to June 2011 Regional Programs and Meetings

<b>2010</b>		
October 21	International Credit Union Day	Members
November 7-13	CULROC Exposure Program	Taiwan ROC
November 29	Grand Opening of the U Tower Building	Thailand
November 27 - December 4 (date will be advised)	Mini Master on Credit Union Management in collaboration with Kasetsart University (rescheduled)	Thailand
December 10-11	Credit Union League of Thailand's Belated International Credit Union Day Celebration	Thailand
<b>2011</b>		
January 13-14	ACCU Staff Evaluation & Planning Meeting	Thailand

January 24-28	Master Trainer Training on 360 Degrees Financial Literacy for Credit Union Members	Thailand
March 12-14	72nd Board Meeting of ACCU	Thailand
April	NACUFOK Exposure	Korea
April 24	CEOs Workshop and Meeting	Thailand
April 25-26	5th Asian Credit Unions/ Cooperative Regulators Conference	Thailand
April 27-28	Credit Union Convention & 40th Anniversary of ACCU	Thailand
June 12-17	13th Asian Development Education Workshop	Thailand
June 19-24	Credit Union Directors Competency Course	Thailand (tentative)

### Board of Directors

**Chalermphol Dulsamphant**  
President - Thailand

**Walis Pelin**  
1st Vice-President - Taiwan ROC

**Min Raj Kadel**  
2nd Vice-President - Nepal

**Reynaldo Gandionco**  
Secretary - Philippines

**Tae-Jong Zhang**  
Treasurer - Korea

**Ranjith Hettiarachchi**  
CEO - Ex-Officio

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