



## **Management Report - January 2007**



### **Thirty-Eight ACCESS Auditors ready to commence branding**

The recently concluded training on ACCESS Brand Auditing awarded certificates to 38 attendees from nine countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Philippines, Mongolia, Russia, and Malaysia). The Cordaid and FSCT sponsored training provided skills on ACCESS Brand enabling auditors to carry out brand assessment and provide technical assistance to achieve the brand. The training also identified the tools to be developed that will consequently fill in the gaps common to Asian credit unions. ACCESS Brand standards will build the image of the Asian credit union system by assuring its quality operations. ACCESS has four major perspectives: finance, customer, internal business, and learning and growth. The brand assigns measurable criteria for quality assurance on the four operational perspectives of the credit union. Auditors are ready to take the task of ACCESS brand audit on the first quarter of 2007. ACCU anticipates an evolving branding process as auditors begin their role in their respective organizations.



**AMBASSADOR'S APPROVAL OF CREDIT UNIONS:** H.E. Pieter J. Th. Marres, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and his spouse Mrs. Josee Marres graced the reception dinner of the ACCESS Auditors Training on January 22 at Chaophya Hotel. He underscored the role of credit unions in poverty alleviation and acknowledged the good work of Cordaid particularly the support extended to ACCU in strengthening credit unions in Asia.

### **Leadership Training in Laos**

The credit union promoters and leaders under the sponsorship of SNV Laos and Lao Women Union gained knowledge and skills in operating a credit union in the five days training held on January 16-18 in Luang Prabang. The training discussed the role and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and Committees, effective meeting management, vision building, planning and developing services for members. In partnership with Agriterro, ACCU supports SNV Laos and Lao Women Union in promoting two community-based credit unions in Luang Prabang.



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### Myanmar Cooperatives Ready to Implement CUMI



The National Workshop on Credit Cooperative Microfinance Innovations organized by the Central Cooperative Society of Myanmar and ACCU on January 17-19 in Yangon set the tone on the need for cooperatives and promoting organizations to uphold microfinance as tool for poverty alleviation. More than 30 leaders, educators, regulators and officers of supporting organizations demonstrated their commitment in their action plans. Reaching 'have less' by offering affordable financial services, organizing new savings and credit cooperatives in the villages and training leaders on the CUMI methodology are some of the significant strategies identified by attendees.

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### Technical Assistance to Farmers Association Development Thailand

In cooperation with Agriterra, Netherlands, ACCU provided technical assistance to FAD Thailand in developing its Accounting Systems and Procedures. FAD, also a partner of Agriterra, worked with ACCU in promoting credit unions to its farmer members in 2003. ACCU's services are also available to development organizations on a fee basis.

### ACCU Management Semi-Annual Evaluation and Planning

ACCU management took time out on January 11-12 at Rayong Province for the Semi-Annual Evaluation and Planning meeting. Upon the review of the implementation of the Road Map, the meeting concluded the framework of 2007/2008 Business Plan of ACCU having the Road Map 2004-2009 as its basis. The meeting emphasized the importance of being innovative and proactive enabling to meet members' expectations.

### Updating the Asian Credit Union Statistical Report - 2007

Request for Members Statistical Report for the year 2007 was circulated to all Regular and Affiliate members. The information

will be used to publish the 2007 Asian Credit Union Directory. Members are requested to submit their statistics by March 31, 2007.

### Programming for Asian Credit Union Developement with CCA

CCA's (Canadian Co-operative Association) Field Manager, Sri Lanka Re-building Livelihoods Project, Ms. Ingrid Fischer visited from January 29 to February 1 to finalize the project with ACCU for the next three years. The project will support three strategies in the Road Map: Reaching Out, Changing and Building Leadership Competency and Credit Union Monitoring and Standardization.

### First Exposure Program will be organized by CULT on February 19-25, 2007

The invitation to nominate participants to the first Exposure Program to Thailand was circulated to member organizations. The Credit Union League of Thailand will host the in-country cost of accommodation, meals and training materials. Participants are requested to bear their international airfare and other incidental cost. Participants will be limited to 20 on a first come first serve basis. Deadline of application is February 4, 2007.