



## ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN CONFEDERATION OF CREDIT UNIONS

### Management Report - July 2007

#### United Nations Granted ACCU “Special Consultative Status”

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations in New York, USA, at its Substantive Session of July 2007, decided to grant Special Consultative Status to ACCU. According to the approval, ACCU may now designate official representatives to the United Nations – to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations offices in Geneva and Vienna. Designated representatives can pick up their passes at the designated sites. The regular presence of ACCU representatives will allow implementing effectively the provisions of the consultative relationship. Every year, ACCU will receive the “Calendar of United Nations meeting open to participation by or of special interest to NGOs in consultative status.”



ACCU can now participate in formal UN deliberations through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Special consultative status is given to organizations that have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC.

#### President and CEO Represents ACCU in the World Credit Union Conference in Calgary

The President, Dr. Sawat Saengbangpla and the CEO, Ranjith Hettiarachchi represented ACCU at the World Credit Union Conference on July 29 to August 1 in Calgary. More than 2,500 attendees from 62 countries had the opportunity to network and participate in educational sessions on leadership and strategy, financial inclusion, financial and operational policy, marketing and business development and practical solutions to common challenges.

At the conference, WOCCU awarded its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, to former WOCCU Chairman L.R. (Bobby) McVeigh of the Credit Union Central of Canada and to the Foundation for Polish Credit Unions.

WOCCU awarded its WOCCU Young Professionals Program (WYCUP) scholarships to five of the 36 international applicants participating in the program at the conference. In recognition of their outstanding leadership in the international credit union system, the five winners received an all expense paid trip to next year's conference in Hong Kong.

WOCCU also elected its Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Melvin Edwards of the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions is elected as the new Chairman of WOCCU.



*Top: President, CEO and 2nd Vice-President Mr. PM Sitanggang congratulates the new WOCCU Chair, Mr. Melvin Edwards.*



*Below: The President and CEO with 1st Vice-President Mr. Oh-man Kwon and 2nd Vice-President PM Sitanggang of ACCU with Asian delegates and friends.*



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### ACCU joins CCA's Credit Union Partner Forum in Calgary



*CEO Ranjith presenting a plaque of recognition to CCA's Executive Director, Carol Hunter (left) and Senior Director, Development Jo-Anne Ferguson (right)*

ACCU attended the Canadian Co-operative Association's (CCA) first-ever Partner Forum on July 28, 2007 held prior to the World Credit Union Conference in Calgary. The topic is Co-operative Microfinance – a topic of growing interest to credit unions around the world and at CCA. CCA's partners from eight countries will attend the forum.

The forum discussed topics on Global Competition of Co-operatives, the CCA's Microfinance Strategy and the Credit Union Milestones on poverty alleviation. Ranjith shared the poverty alleviation strategies implemented by Asian credit unions. With CCA'S support, the Manager Member Services, Leni San Roque also attended the forum and WOCCU World Credit Union Conference from July 28-August 1.

ACCU enjoys a meaningful partnership with CCA since 1983. It is continuing and evolving in keeping with the opportunities and challenges of Asian credit union movement.

ACCU bestowed CCA the prestigious ACCU Recognition Award in 2002 in admiration for its support to credit unions and promotion of 'people helping people' philosophy.

### CULT Reinforces Youth connection in Credit Unions



ACCU and CULT launches the Youth program with 20 partner credit unions in Petchaburi Province on July 5-6. The program will support the credit unions in developing financial services and marketing tools to reinforce connections of credit unions with youth. The credit unions agreed to adopt innovations on their current youth programs to ensure their services match the youth lifestyles. The workshop shed light on youth segmentation as Generation Y as those persons between ages 0-19 and Generation X as those persons between ages 20-35. Moreover, the project also recognizes youth in poverty. The project will ensure their needs are addressed such as education and employment. ACCU initially designed support services for this market segment such as Microenterprise, MicroFranchise, EduLink, MarketLink and JobsLink.

### Technical Mission to Laos

The mission to Laos on July 16-20 provided technical assistance to two credit unions in Luang Prabang, assessed the problems of the 45 credit unions, identified appropriate strategies, and consulted with the partners on the ground.

The mission emphasized the need for viable cooperative financial institutions. As a mandate, ACCU seeks to promote sustainable credit unions in Laos which would mean capacity building of credit unions by increasing membership base and training volunteer leaders.





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### 22 Directors Graduate in CULT's CUDCC

ACCU was delighted to be part of CULT's first batch of CUDCC training. Twenty-two Directors in attendance conferred their thumbs up to CUDCC and the way CULT team handled the training professionally. The 10-course module was organized in two separate classes – April and July 2007 or a total of 8 days. CULT translated the training modules. Translation of the CUDCC modules is underway. CUDCC and CUDCC are now new offerings in CULT training on a fee basis.



### Sharing Credit Union Experience



ACCU welcomed Fr. Adrianus Hems, a credit union pioneer in Nias Island in Bangkok on July 16. He visited CULT and Klongchan Credit Union. Fr. Ad was very pleased that he was able to share his compassion and vision with ACCU CEO Ranjith. Fr. Ad introduced a prudent management system in Nias Island where the 18 credit unions operate under one management. The system is now working efficiently. The credit unions are providing better services to less fortunate members. Fr. Ad believes discipline, honesty, equality and spiritual guidance are among the main factors that contributed to the success of credit unions in Nias.

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### Paying Tribute to Mr. Augustine Kang, ACCU CEO 1971-1983



On behalf of ACCU, Ranjith paid a visit to Mr. Augustine Kang after attending the WOCCU conference in Calgary. Mr. Kang is residing in Madison, Wisconsin with his wife Monica. He served as the first CEO of ACCU from 1971 to 1983. ACCU recognizes his enormous contribution in building ACCU and promoting credit unions in Asia. ACCU pays tribute to his contributions in the development of credit unions in Asia. Mr. Kang is 84.

### Publications

The Annual Report 2006/2007 and ACCU News July to September 2007 issue are completed and disseminated to members and partners.

**Welcome to Bali!**

**ASIAN CREDIT UNION FORUM**

20-22 September 2007

301 registrations from 25 countries  
as of August 2, 2007

**Pre-Conference Workshops: SOLD OUT**

**Forum: Few Seats Available**

