



Management Report - February 2007



CULT 1st Exposure Program: 7 countries, 7 Days in Thailand

Seven countries, seven days in Thailand is the best description of the first CULT's Exposure Program held on February 19 to 27 in Bangkok. Twenty-three participants from Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand critically discussed the challenges of credit unions in governance and in today's marketplace. The participants recognized the need for credit unions to increase membership particularly to the 'have less' segment of the society. Sharing of strategies to increase the credit union market share was one of the interesting highlights of the exposure. This has enabled participants prepare practical action plan to increase membership of their respective credit unions. ACCU team provided technical support as resource persons. The exposure program of CULT will be offered annually thereafter.

Lao PDR Credit Union Promotion

Microfinance Conference

ACCUC CEO attended the National Conference on Microfinance for the Poor in the Lao PDR on February 12-13. The National Economic Research Institute, Committee for Planning and Investment, Microfinance Capacity Building and Research Project, Bank of Lao PDR and the Concern Worldwide organized the conference. The conference provided a platform for policy makers, donors, researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders to share experiences and exchange lessons learnt in the microfinance sector. The credit union experience shared by ACCU turned out to be a unique case for savings based, member owned and controlled microfinance initiative in Laos. One hundred sixty representatives from INGOs, NGOs, MFIs and government institutions attended the conference.

Building partnerships

The CEO had a meeting on February 14 with the key officers of the Bank of Lao PDR (central bank) to foster the development of credit unions in the country. BOL, the regulating body for credit unions in Laos has a long outstanding relationship with ACCU



since 1992. ACCU and BOL agreed to strengthen the 20 credit unions in the southern part of the country.

The meeting with SNV Laos, World Vision and ACCU on February 15 looked into the possible collaboration in promoting credit unions in Laos. The three organizations recognized the significant role of credit unions in poverty alleviation. The CEO also visited Vientiane Credit Union organized with the technical assistance of WOCCU under the ADB project.



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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3rd Regulators Conference May 22-24 in Bangkok, Thailand



ACCU circulated the invitation letters for the 3rd Asian Cooperative Regulators Conference that will be organized in collaboration with Cooperative Promotion Department of Thailand (CPD), the Credit Union League of Thailand Ltd. (CULT), and the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand Ltd. (FSCT) on May 22 to 24, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of the conference is to improve the professional management capacity within Asian credit union systems and to explore possible organizational delivery models that will guarantee the safety and soundness of credit unions.

CEOs Meeting on May 25 Follows the Regulators Conference

A one day CEO meeting on May 25, 2007 will follow the Regulators Conference. ACCU recognizes the important role of CEOs in the development of credit unions in Asia. The meeting is a platform for CEOs to discuss objectively the critical issues on credit union operation as well as the movement's strategic response.

61st Board of Directors Meeting set on March 13-14 in Bangkok



The meeting books for the 61st Board of Directors Meeting were sent to the Board members in time for the meeting on March 13-14, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. Attending Board members are: President, Assoc. Prof. Sawat Saengbangpla, Ph.D.-Thailand.; 1st Vice-President, Mr. Oh-man Kwon-Korea; 2nd Vice President, Mr. P.M. Sitanggang-Indonesia; Treasurer, Mr. G. Lahmana-Malaysia; Secretary, Ms. Sylvia Flores, Ph.D.-Philippines.

21st NACUFOK Friendship Program on April 22-27, 2007

NACUFOK announced its 21st Friendship Program on April 22 - 27, 2007. This year's program will focus on E-finance business and service models. Member organizations of ACCU are entitled to nominate qualified participants from their network. Please submit application to ACCU on or before March 23, 2007. The application will be on a first come first served basis. Please note that there will be one allocation for one country. You may send more than one nomination for consideration in case vacant slot is available.