

Message from Nagasaki Mayor



Mr. Tomihisa Tagami

*Towards a peaceful world
without nuclear weapons - for
the future of the next generation
children.*

Looking back into history and with the glimpse of the pictures of the atomic bomb victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the question that came into my mind was why the bomb was made?

There are still some nuclear power countries that possess nuclear weapons and there is no guarantee whether these weapons are not being used causing anxiety in the world.

In 2009, President Obama stressed the need for nuclear disarmament. In support to this declaration, the people of Nagasaki have been organizing various activities conveying our experience as a city that has suffered bombing.

Other initiatives include picture-story-shows about the bombing, training of peace guide and organizing A-Bomb Exhibitions.

The Mayors for Peace in Japan now compose of 1,017 cities promoting solidarity of cities to work internationally to raise consciousness regarding nuclear weapon abolition.



Peace Action marks the Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

2011 Peace Action was held in Hiroshima from August 4 to 6, and also in Nagasaki from August 7 to 8.

About 1,600 people from Co-ops in the region and from across Japan participated in the events.

66 years since A-bombing, international opinion is proceeding to nuclear disarmament after the NPT (Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty) review conference in May 2010.

The Great East Japan Earthquake in May 2011 has renewed our thought about the importance of relationship and mutual support, as well as the value of a peaceful daily life. 2011 Peace Action in Hiroshima & Nagasaki had been planned and organized by JCCU and member co-ops with the cooperation of Co-op Hiroshima and Co-op Nagasaki Federations.

Peace Action in Hiroshima (with 1,000 participants from 64 member Co-ops)

The 2011 Peace Action in Hiroshima took as its main theme 'Succession and creation - to create a peaceful future from Hiroshima!' Several events were organized to commemorate the occasion.

Niji-no Hiroba Event

This event consisted of two parts, the 'Niji-no Stage' and the 'Minna-no Hiroba', was held on the afternoon of August 5, at the Hiroshima Prefectural Sport Center 'Green Arena'.

'Niji-no Stage' started with a song by Yuji Sasaki, a singer-songwriter and is a nephew of Sadako Sasaki who is well-known for the story 'Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes'. After the organizer's greeting, Hiroshima Mayor Mr. Kazumi Matsui gave a speech. Following was a speech titled 'Hiroshima Heart' by Mr. Yuji Egusa of Hiroshima Institute for Peace Education about his experience of A-bombing.

He told the audience his valuable story using pictures and maps of bombed area and of weapons and clothes in those days.

The second part 'Minna-no Hiroba' had many events, including 29 booths from various Co-ops nationwide and other peace organizations. There were pictures featuring peace drawn by Indonesian children exchanged through UNICEF Study Tour, and picture exhibition illustrating Co-op's commitment in the Tohoku Earthquake. Participants visited booths of their interest and engaged in various exchanges.

During the occasion fifteen section meetings were held including 'Witness of bombing' to listen to the story of an A-bomb survivor and a field trip to monumental milestones.



Stage event at Niji-no arena



Peace Memorial park

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Countdown to International Year of Co-operatives 2012

Co-operatives nationwide are preparing to join in various activities to showcase their benefits.

Sixteen prefectural IYC committees have been formed so far with more to be formed later. Each of these committees has been organizing meetings to discuss the way forward for the launching of IYC 2012.

Local events and symposiums are being planned and more details of these would be reported in the next issue of JCCU Newsletter.

Meanwhile the national opening event is scheduled for January 13, 2012.

Since the earthquake disaster reconstruction has become the main theme for the Japanese Co-operatives for IYC 2012, the first opening meeting of the prefectural IYC committees receive updates from the quake-hit areas and based on these the future work by co-operatives towards the reconstruction are discussed.



Committee meeting at Hyogo prefecture. Attendance 622.



Fukuoka, first IYC committee meeting. Attendance 140



Tottori prefecture (August 8) 110 people from various organizations and 40 staffs from Co-op

Road to recovery and reconstruction of the stricken area

Since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami and the subsequent nuclear accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, Co-ops nationwide have engaged in various supporting activities to bring relief to the sufferers. The initial supporting activities were among others, the supply of essential goods, construction of temporary shelter and assisting in re-locating victims into the temporary housing.

On July 14, this year's International Day of Co-operatives was held in Tokyo with the theme, 'what co-operative societies can do for the earthquake disaster reconstruction'.

Again, in commemoration with the launch of IYC 2012, JCCU and member co-op are seizing the opportunity to showcase the significance of co-op through the reconstruction exercise.

Co-ops in the stricken areas have established good communication network through the volunteer centers with people in the stricken areas in cooperation with local governments, social welfare councils etc.,

Co-op sends coordinators to the volunteer centers in the stricken areas, while member volunteers from all over Japan help in the exercise.

To restore life in the stricken areas, local member volunteers support the sufferers by offering tea parties, holding events for children, organizing music concert and a bazaar to provide clothes and daily necessities.

Between June and August, 95 staffs have been dispatched to assist in the reconstruction exercise at Miyagi with a total working time of 418 hours. During this 9-week activity period, 2,073 people from other organizations also joined in the effort. Besides, many friendly activities such as volunteer-co-op staff exchanges and volunteer-disaster sufferers' exchanges are being organized. An average of 46 people per day have been taken part in the exchanges.



'Freai tea party' at a store, to enjoy coffee and hand-made cakes (Miyagi Co-op)



Mourning dresses donated from across Japan, for the sufferers to wear at the memorial service (Iwate Co-op)



'Farewell time' evacuees' moving to temporal houses started (Miyagi Co-op)



Bazaar for sufferers (Miyagi Co-op)



A concert co-hosted by NPO Ganbappe Iwaki (Ibaraki Co-op)

Mobile version site for Co-op products launched

Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), in order to strengthen information and communication through mobile phones, launched a mobile version site for Co-op products on September 1, 2011.

The site incorporates product information search service capable of reading QR code to mobile phones equipped with cameras that allows the user to access the product page. Information regarding the products raw material, production site and allergies associated with the use of the product could be obtained instantly.

On September 1, JCCU would launch new products that would include confectionary, seafood products and frozen food. Forty-four items out of the lot will have QR code service.

Since the use of mobile phones are becoming more popular than PC's, Co-op aims at increasing the number of Co-op items with QR code to about 3,750 items by 2013.

The service would not only provide product information but also the development story of some popular co-op products, the secret behind some of the long-selling items etc.

The system is also compatible with smart phones.

Through this process of providing information about co-op products, members would also have a full understanding of the products and will promote further loyalty for co-op products.



QR Code attached to Co-op products

Co-op Energy policy review committee launched

The first energy policy review committee of JCCU was launched on July 1, 2011. This project forms part of Co-op's agenda for vision 2020, which was passed during the last General Assembly held in June.

In becoming a serious accident caused by the TEPCO Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Plant, JCCU had formed an ad hoc committee to investigate the present energy situation and submit Co-op's opinion about Japan's future energy policy.

Based on the outcome, JCCU would be able to draw up member-driven energy savings activities that would enhance members' lifestyle and Co-op's future business.

At the first meeting, Mr. Sato, the managing director of the Fukushima Prefecture Co-operative Union reported on the mischief caused by the nuclear power station. Again it was decided that JCCU conducts monitoring surveys of 3,700 members regarding their views on Japan's future energy.

In the free discussion the following comments were made:

1. Ensuring stable power is an important social issue, environmental issues need to be discussed and integrated with the primary risk posed by nuclear power station.
2. What impact will the abolishing of the nuclear power plant have on consumer living and the Japanese economy in general? These need to be discussed.
3. It is important to verify the function of the nuclear power administration that has been instituted since the postwar era, especially with its influence on the government.

The second meeting of the review committee was held on August 31, 2011 with a specialist invited to give lectures on problems related to energy issues. Comprehensive discussions were made and a summary report will be given in the next issue of the newsletter.

Co-op working experience for school children

Co-op Gunma's Fujioka store has been organizing summer work experience program for school children under the theme "children visiting day" as part of its nurturing support for the next generation children. The training is intended to enrich the student with the following experiences:

1. Experience working to better understand some basic social roles such as security of food, environmental preservation, welfare and safe driving initiatives.
2. For the children to deepen their understanding about the importance of working and stress that parents go through while working.
3. For parents and Co-op staff to explain work procedures to the children is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of working at Co-op.

The first visit of school children to the Co-op store was on Friday, July 29.

Early morning of the day the students and their parents visited the store to examine and involved in product preparations prior to opening the store to customers. After receiving explanations from the store chief, product replenishment work started.

The number of participation of children has increased with this year number reaching 21. By parents and children doing the same work together, the tide between them becomes stronger. The children's understanding to Co-op's work goes in the long run to increase Co-op fun among the children.

Again, apart from working at the store the children had the opportunity to experience the work at the home delivery division. Loading of members ordered goods into the home delivery trucks and unloading them at the members' homes becomes an amazing experiences that will remain in the memories of the students for a lifetime.



Children engaged in product replenishment



Co-op product gift items to the children

Co-op Kobe Energy Savings measures

In 2010 Co-op Kobe started the review act for energy use in the normal operation.

The Co-op made an 'operational manual for energy saving practice' showing energy saving measures (including temperature control in air conditioning, time management of ventilation and lighting in the store, reduction of fluorescent light and change to LED) and their energy-saving effect based on the result of energy-saving operation practiced at the 2009 model stores.

The Co-op's headquarters embarked on some of the practice with the net effect of 3% energy reduction in their operation as compared to the previous year results.

In the store business with larger energy consumption, three-fourth of the stores succeeded in reducing energy use compared to the previous year.

The total CO₂ emission achieved a 4.5% reduction with the use of the prepared operational manual and the installation of some energy-saving equipment.

Upcoming Events

JCCU-ILO Study Tour Program

Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) in collaboration with ILO is organizing a study tour for African Cooperative Leaders in Tokyo from September 25 to October 2, 2011.

This is the second time that the study visit is being organized. The first one was last year August.

The program will include lectures on the Japanese Co-operative Movement and study visits to Co-operative facilities.



Reducing the Environmental Impact

As the Great East Japan Earthquake has clouded the outlook of national CO₂ reduction target and CO₂ emission coefficient of electricity which are necessary to draft Co-op's reduction plan, Co-op has to postpone reviewing the 'Long-term total CO₂ reduction plan, which is to reduce 30% of greenhouse gases from all Japanese Co-ops by 2020 compared to 2005' decided in 2010. As CO₂ reduction is absolutely imperative, all Japanese Co-ops will continue promoting their current CO₂ reduction measures.

Promoting Energy Conservation in Stores

Co-op is taking advantage of new store openings to introduce energy-efficiency facilities to reduce the environmental impact on store operations.

Co-op Kanagawa's 'Mia Cucina Hatano-Soya Store' has been using natural energy while installing energy-saving equipments and a system to check power consumption on a real-time basis.

Photovoltaic generator (solar panel) is installed on the front-side roof of the store building supposed to generate electricity 11,085kwh per year. The store uses LED lights for in-store illumination, outdoor lights and showcases. Part of the ceiling is roof-light window to let the natural sunlight into the store.

Co-op Shizuoka's 'Mio Cucina Shimono-Higashi Store' is also an all-electrified store to reduce environmental burdens. It is equipped with freezers and refrigerators with an inverter-cooling machine and a cooling control system to reduce electric consumption.

The store turns off the cooling cases for beverages and some other products at nighttime and installs LED bulbs in the freezer and other showcases.

Miyagi Co-op has also been promoting installation of the photovoltaic generators since 2000. In 2010 the Co-op installed 50kW and 10kW photovoltaic generators in Tomizawa and Ishinomaki Branch office respectively. This resulted in a 21.8 ton CO₂ reduction in all Miyagi Co-op operations.

Nara Co-op has achieved a 75% reduction y/y, by changing ceiling lights and some spotlights to low-power, long-life LED lights.

Consumer Co-ops nationwide continues to improve energy savings with the introduction of renewable energy.



Energy efficient store (Co-op Kanagawa)



Solar panels on front-side roof



Solar panels installed on Tomizawa Store (Miyagi Co-op)

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