

Consumer awareness survey about Electric Power Generation

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has drafted a proposal for "energy mix" for 2030. In order to reflect public comments on the proposal, JCCU conducted consumer awareness survey about the way forward regarding electric power generation from April 24-29, 2015.

The target people were men and women between the ages 20 and 79 through Internet survey. Number of valid responses were 1,000 samples.

When asked about what the power composition should be in 2030, the results revealed that about 25% did not subscribe to nuclear power generation while about 23%, 18% and 10% approved of 5%, 15% and more than 25% use of nuclear power generation respectively.

In the case of renewable energy, more than 30% of the respondents were in favor of 36.6% use of renewal energy while about 20% of them were in favor of 26.6% usage. In total about 63.2% of respondents expressed the need for active promotion of renewable energy.

For thermal energy production 70% of the respondents were in favor.

About 70% of the respondents expressed the concern that in choosing a power company, the power supply constitution is a necessary information.

The overall results indicated members approval for more renewables and less nuclear. JCCU has instituted an energy policy that does not rely on nuclear power generation.



Co-op delegation to the NPT Review Conference

The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is being held at the UN Headquarters in New York from April 27-May 22.

This treaty is the cornerstone of the post-World War II nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and facilitates cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Since its entry into force, review conferences have been held every five years to assess the implementation of the Treaty.

In this year's conference, JCCU and 45 member co-ops from 29 prefectures nationwide sent a delegation consisting 92 members to take a concerted action with about 49 members of the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization (Nihon Hidankyo).

On April 26, the delegation took part in two events; a joint rally of non-governmental organizations (NGO) held at the Union Square and a parade that took them up to the United Nations headquarters.

In the joint rally, the Japan Hidankyo participants made various appeals under the slogans "No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No More hibakushas".

The mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. MATSUI Kazumi in his address made a statement, "Let's create a swell of peace toward the abolition of nuclear weapons."

In the parade where about 8,000 people gathered from all over the world, using banners and paper cranes that had been prepared from Japan, appeal was made to think about the abolition of nuclear weapons while they marched up to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza near the United Nations headquarters from the Union Square.

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Prior to attending the NPT Conference in New York an inauguration ceremony for co-op delegates was held.

Since this year is the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and probably the last time the A-bomb survivors could attend the NPT conference it meant that the conference should at all cost be successful in order to make path to a "world without nuclear weapons".

The inauguration ceremony made it possible for the delegation to meet together and plan a common course to increase the domestic and international public opinion that wish a world free of nuclear weapons.



Seen of the delegation inaugural ceremony.

A booklet entitled "LAST TOMATO" by Takemoto Shigenori, ex-President of JCCU, summarizing his own experience of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima has been published. Electronic version of the booklet can be accessed on live via the following URL address:

<http://jccu.coop/eng/index.php>

or

<http://jccu.coop/eng/public/index.php>

Work experience for school children at Co-op Gunma

As part of Co-op Gunma's social program for nurturing the younger generation and to create a platform for parent-child communication, the co-op has been providing social studies tour and workplace experience for elementary school children.

The co-op accepts children to visit their parents' workplace and encourage questions to be asked by them to deepen understanding regarding their parents work.

In fiscal 2014, at 12 business offices of Co-op Gunma, 27 set of parent-child totaling 36 people, consisting of children from first grade elementary school to third grade of high school participated, and helped with the work at the stores and the home delivery.

Besides, Co-op Gunma has also been accepting school children for social studies field trips and workplace experience.

During 2014 fiscal year, 8 stores and one home delivery center accepted a total of 548 school children from 10 elementary schools and 42 children from 8 junior high school, 6 high school and one nursing school for the work place experience program.



Improving Efficiency of Co-op Members Meeting by use of IT

Consumer Co-operative Co-op Mirai, having more than 3 million members, hold regular meetings consisting of small to large numbers.

In order to improve efficiency of such meetings and at the same time to facilitate the reduction of paper usage, the co-op has distributed tablet terminal to the area directors of each district committee.

Full-scale introduction was made from February 2014 after the co-op had introduced on a trial basis by the target directors.

At present, a total of 440 units are being operated. The main use of the tablet includes, e-book of the conference materials, Activity Exchange blog writing and viewing by the district committee, official Facebook browsing and questionnaire collection.

By making a document e-book, mailing of materials to the home of each committee member is eliminated and the burdens on meeting preparations by both the secretariat and the committee members is decreased.

Any document replacement just before the meeting has also become easier making it possible to provide more real-time documentation.

Also, it is possible to make a link in the document so that the committee members could read from related websites and videos in parallel with the document to get a better understanding of the meeting.

The access to blog and Facebook also becomes easy as well as the interchange between the district committees beyond prefectures. Again, active participation in events organized by Co-op Mirai is also promoted.

In the fiscal 2014, the quantity of paper reduction was approximately 2.35million pieces.



Okayama Co-op presented a support fund of 1 million yen to AMDA social development organization

On April 9, Okayama Co-op presented a support fund of 1 million yen to "the Honduras pregnant women's club (child care support) activity" being ran by "The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA)" social development organization for the protection of "mothers and children" in the target region of Danri city.

This is the second time donation has been presented to the organization following last January.

About 30 people including Mr. HIRATA Shozo the chairperson of Okayama Co-op, Mr. TANAKA Teruchika the managing director, staff and co-op members participated in the presentation ceremony held in Okayama co-op headquarters where Mr. Hirata handed the donation note to Mr. Shunsuke Suzuki the chairperson of AMDA social development organization.

Mr. Kazuhiro Tanaka, staff of AMDA social development Organization, reported the support activities in Honduras in the previous year and the future action plans.

He mentioned that the previous year activity was centered on maternal and child health improvement and that the donation received last year was used for specific cooking classes and to help the distribution of vitamin supplements to the

pregnant women in Honduras as well as purchasing clothes and diapers for the newborn babies in six of the health centers.

80,000 tablets of "iron vitamin supplements" were distributed and also a total of about 800 pregnant women participated in "pregnant women's club".

She further mentioned that this year's donation will target pregnant women who are scheduled to give birth in six new public health centers.



Presentation ceremony: Mr. Hirata handed the donation note to Mr. Shunsuke Suzuki

Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction Concert held

In order to encourage people striving to recover from the Great East Japan Earthquake and to raise awareness of the disaster again, Co-op Kobe in collaboration with Miyagi Co-op held a concert for the victims displaced in the disaster on Sunday March 8, 2015 in the large hall of Sendai Civic Hall.

Co-op Kobe Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 "The Choral" (usually called "Dai-ku" in Japan) made up of 48 volunteers performed under the inspiration "Harmony of Hope" conducted by Mr. IMURA Masaki and the pianist Mr. OZAKI Katsunori.

The concert also featured Ms. KUMIKO who was in Ishinomaki during the time of the earthquake and has since been continuously supporting Ishinomaki. She was greeted and together with volunteer members of Miyagi Co-op made a stage performance with music creating an enjoyable time for the attendants.

Many comments were received from the floor such as "I have received strength after watching this concert", "I'm living in a temporary housing, but will do my best again from tomorrow", "this type of concert raises hope for a new tomorrow".

Also "Earthquake disaster reconstruction support homemade goods" were sold at the meeting place.



News in Brief

Japan CO-OP Insurance business in a glimpse

The Japan CO-OP Insurance Consumers' Co-operative Federation (JCIF) which is a union of consumer co-operative societies nationwide which are affiliated with JCCU, offers insurance products that suit members' needs with more reasonable premiums and better coverage and encourages the spirit of mutual aid among members.

It was established by JCCU in 2008 under the revised Co-op Law adopted in 2007 that required Co-ops conducting insurance business to separate the organization from the insurance business. On March 21, 2009 JCIF started full-fledged insurance business taking over all the insurance businesses from JCCU affiliated co-ops.

The business domain covers illness or injury, providing comprehensive coverage for outpatient care due to accident, hospitalization, surgery, death and a wide range of perils including fire, lightning, and damages from a third party such as unexpected damage from a third party and earthquake.

As of January 20, 2015, JCIF has on record 8.21 million policy holders. Payment of insurance claims totaled 53.3 billion JPY, paid out to 1.1 million policyholders.

In both fiscal 2013 and 2014, CO-OP Insurance won first prize in the life insurance category of the Japanese Customer Satisfaction Index Survey, conducted by the Service Productivity &

Innovation for Growth (SPRING) of the Japan Productivity Center for 13 companies, in 5 indexes, namely, customer expectation, perception quality, perception value, customer satisfaction and the recommended intention based on customer evaluations of the quality of goods and services received from the company.

Customers receiving services from JCIF gave the company a JCSI benchmark of 81.9 for the customer satisfaction, surpassing the top-scoring company in the private sector at 81.0.

Also, the CO-OP Insurance mascot character "Ko-suke" won first prize in the Companies Character Category of the Yuru-chara Grand Prix 2013.

JCIF also promotes Life-Planning Activities for the elderly. Picture below – prevention care classroom exercise for the elderly.



Social initiatives

- Seven consumer co-operatives and Co-op Federations won the 2015 Consumer Support Distinguished Service Commendation Award as organization that rendered advocacy and the promotion of consumer interest. The announcement was made on April 24, 2015. The Minister of State awards went to Ibaraki Co-op, Kouchi Co-op and Hyogo Prefecture Consumers' Co-operative Union. The best consumer supporters chapter was also won by Co-op Gifu, Miyagi Co-op, Ibaraki Prefecture Consumers' Co-operative Union, and Okinawa Prefecture Consumers' Co-operative Union.
- Co-op Sapporo has signed an agreement with the local government in Sapporo to cooperate with emergency relief goods supply in the event of a disaster. This becomes the 21st time Co-op Sapporo has signed an agreement to supply relief items during large scale disaster. Mr. TODA Yasuhiko a mayor, emphasized that the prefecture's network with Co-op Sapporo "lead to the safety and security of the towns in the province."

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