

Children's Exchange Camp

Yamayuri Co-op continues to support children from Fukushima prefecture under the Fukushima Children's Recreation Project organized by JCCU and its member co-ops.

The co-op held the third "Fukushima Prefecture-Ebina Children Exchanges Camp" for the children from Minamisoma city in Fukushima Prefecture and Ebina city in the Kanagawa Prefecture for 4 days from August 18 to 21 in cooperation with a local NGO.

A total of 45 people participated in the camping consisting of 19 from Minamisoma and 26 elementary students from Ebina.

The children enjoyed various experiences including workshops, beating drum, swimming in a river, making solar cookers and chatting while making curry rice.

Yamayuri Co-op involved in the planning and management of the activities as well as co-sponsoring the ingredients of children's meals with the donation from co-op members.



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Regional Protection Activities of Japanese Consumer Co-operatives

While elderly people's isolated death" and "solitary death" serve as a social problem in Japan, JCCU and Consumer Co-ops nationwide, through various projects and activities, is committed to community development by which everyone can live with a peace of mind and a sense of security.

Utilizing co-op's delivery networks for the weekly delivery of ordered goods to members' homes at a designated time and day has made it possible for co-ops to engage in "Regional Protection Agreement" with the local governments.

During delivery of items, co-op delivery person is to confirm the safety of senior citizens and report any risk situation to the Health and Welfare Division of the city, town or village so that appropriate actions may be taken.

The co-op dinner home delivery service is being used by more than 10 million households nationwide and delivery is done each time by same co-op staff for five days a week.

Taking advantage of the inherent opportunity to meet directly with the elderly and community members living alone is a great advantage to promote senior citizen watch-over activities for the purpose of early detection of their safety and to ensure their security.

The number of cities, wards, towns and villages in 45 prefectures where agreement have been concluded is 783, which is equivalent to about 45% of the total number of cities, towns and villages nationwide (1,741) as of October 2015.

In five prefectures, Aomori, Miyagi, Ibaraki, Chiba and Tottori, "regional protection agreement" have been concluded with the local governments for all the cities, wards, towns and villages in the region.

The regional protection agreement also include rescue and handling of information related to consumer damage.

In the event where the goods delivered to the elderly still remains and the situation where people are wandering around town (loitering)", is noticed, the co-op staff will notify the specified administrative contact.

There has been specific examples such as follows:

An elderly person who lost his way as a result of dementia problems was assisted by a co-op delivery person by taking him to a day service facility (Miyagi Co-op).

An elderly women who fell into an irrigation canal was rescued by a co-op delivery staff in cooperation with people in the neighborhood (Co-op Kobe).

Co-op hopes to strengthen ties within the community through its delivery business. The agreement empowers co-op delivery men/women to make sure nothing is amiss when they visit the homes of the elderly and to contact a special center at the ward office is something is wrong.

That office will in turn contact hospitals and local welfare officials if needed.

A co-op delivery staff commented; "we supply delivery goods in the city and our concern is to deepen cooperation agreement and offer quick responses. Sometimes when we visit we have catastrophic experiences such as accumulated newspapers and mails. When we deliver we also make sure our member customers are safe". Through these activities many co-ops have received commendations from the various local governments for their role in building a social system where citizens can live in with peace of mind and a sense of security.

Co-op Sapporo establishes water supply in disasters and emergencies

As the preparation of water at the time of disaster and emergencies, Co-op Sapporo has introduced the groundwater membrane filtration system which could supply drinking water.

A well has been dug in one of the co-op Sapporo store site where underground water could be pumped and filtered through a filtration system for processing to the quality standards of the Water Supply Act enabling the water to be used as clear drinking water.

The facility has seismic resistance to stand against earthquake of the same scale as the Great East Japan Earthquake which hit northeastern Japan in 2011.

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, hospitals and food factories in the seismic area where the groundwater filtration system has been put in place were without water outages.

As a result those hospitals were used to accept dialysis patient from the neighborhood local governments and for the distribution of boiled rice to residence.

The facility has the capacity to produce drinking water for at least 28,000 people per day. In event of emergency it is possible to produce quality drinking water 3L/ person/day to neighborhood residents.

The water supply was commissioned on October 10, 2015 with an opening greetings given by the Managing Director of Co-op Sapporo NAKAJIMA Norihiro followed by cutting of tape, starting of the water supply and the introduction of the facility to the audience.

By this system Co-op Sapporo is confident to supply drinking water to its members and the local citizens in disasters and emergencies.

Co-op Kobe held "2015 Kids Creative City"

As part of Co-op Kobe's initiative to nurture future generations the co-op has been organizing various social activities for elementary school children.

For two days, October 11 and 12, the co-op held "Kids Creative City! Co-op Kobe 2015" in Co-op Kobe's Co-operative Institute (Kyodo Gakuen) in Miki City.

Kids Creative City is a program which provides children with a fun filled, well rounded creative experience. The program offers kids a range of themes and activities that help them develop their skills and knowledge in different areas.

On the two days, the children were empowered to create their own town, think about the social structure and how they can work and do shopping. The event provided the children with an experience of becoming a future member of the society. About 200 people, consisting of elementary and junior high school students took part in the two days event.

Prior to the event children's meeting was organized four times in August by 20 kids to decide the theme of the event, "what type of city to be built" in terms of the design of the city, signboard, currency etc. created by each of them who became leaders during the day of the event.

The two-day event provided each child with an experience which is not only both creative and educational but also great fun!



Scene of children's meeting in preparation for the event



Scene, portraying kids paying salary at the bank and paying taxes

Co-op Reforestation activities "2015 Indonesia tree planting"

Reforestation has become one of the main areas of environmental activity among many consumer co-ops in Japan. The co-ops are committed to supporting environment programs both, nationwide and outside Japan.

JCCU and member co-ops trade with Indonesia in Black Tiger Shrimp. To improve the environment within which the activity is done and to ensure sustainability of the environment, the co-ops are involved in tree-planting activities in Indonesia Tarakan Island.

From September 15 to 20, twelve co-op members of four co-ops in Tokai district visited the affiliates of Japanese construction company located in Indonesia Tarakan island to present their respective fiscal 2014 fund contribution (Total 543,202 JPY) towards tree-planting activities in Indonesia.

The funds is to be used to buy seedlings for mangrove planting including administrative and management expenses of the activity in the field. During the visit the delegates learned and observed the extensive shrimp ponds,

discharge experience of juvenile shrimp, inspection of shrimp hatchery, conducted a tour of the shrimp processing stages and fried shrimp in the manufacturing process to cultivate pride in the black tiger shrimp.

Again the delegates were able to reaffirm the safety and quality of the black tiger shrimp as well as the water environment within which work is done.

They also attended the sixth planting exchange meeting of mangrove by the student volunteers of Borneo University together.



Japanese IBIS Project

(Supported by Co-op Net Federation & Co-op Niigata)

The Japanese Ibis (scientific name: Niponia Nippon) used to be widespread in Japan, but the species have been hunted to extinction. Environmental damage have also caused a great harm to the species.

Co-op Net Federation and Co-op Niigata have taken special measures to support the protection and preservation of the species by concluding a treaty named 'Japanese Ibis Protection in Sado' which is an environmental improvement project, with the local Government of the Sado city on April 30 2010.

Under this treaty, Co-op Net donates 1 yen per sale of 1 kg 'of Co-op Niigata Sado Koshihikari Rice' sold in the stores of all the federation members (Ibaraki Co-op, Tochigi Co-op, Co-op Gunma, Chiba Coop, Saitama Co-op, Co-op Tokyo, Co-op Nagano and Co-op Niigata)

and also through their delivery service as Environmental Improvement Fund" to be utilized to create an environment to nurture the creatures for the reintroduction of the ibis.

On October 3 and 4, a total of 19 Co-op Net Business Federation members and employees took part in the locality visits and exchanges with JA Sado. JA Sado is the producer of the rice "CO-OP Niigata Sado Koshihikari".

Participants visited the rice fields that are engaged in a "farming methods that foster the creatures to deepen their mutual understanding for the Sado Ibis Protection.



News in Brief

Miyagi Co-op launched free Wi-Fi "COOP-SPOT" service

Miyagi Co-op is a community-based retail co-op operating 48 store outlets in Miyagi Prefecture, with household subscription rate of 72.1%, the highest among the consumer co-ops in Japan. The members will now be able to connect to the internet through the Wi-Fi service, which has been launched in all the stores from September 14, 2015. As a result, personal computers, smart phones and tablets could be connected to access free internet in the store.

This service is the first among the northeastern area consumer co-ops.

In a society where smart phones and tablets are rapidly spreading, it had been a growing desire of co-op members to have free Wi-Fi in Miyagi Co-op stores, hence the launch.

The medium to large size stores of Miyagi Co-op have space for dining that provides a more comfortable and convenience space for members to use the free Wi-Fi service. Upon logging on to the internet, Miyagi Co-op homepage will be displayed and users can be

online for a period of 30 min and the line will go off. Users who need additional time should re-log on.

In recent years Miyagi Co-op is offering variety of internet network services to members such as the traditional home delivery internet ordering system the "e Friends" developed by JCCU in 2000 and the introduction of electronic receipt for smartphone users.

With the use of the in-store Wi-Fi, the co-op is considering developing a system that could provide latest information and product information of the shop on the spot to the members.



Nara Co-op receives board members from iCOOP Korea

On October 23 2015, 14 board members from iCOOP Korea visited a Social Welfare Organization being run by Nara Co-op which is a community integrated care system that provides services such as nursing home, life rehabilitation type day service, elderly care support, meal delivery service, childcare support, life management guidance and care plan which is created by a nurse for patients as a result of assessment of patient's needs.

iCOOP is planning to run a welfare business in the future and the visit was organized to provide an opportunity for the delegates to learn from Nara Co-op and the social welfare organization regarding their proactive approach to welfare projects.

Nara Co-op established the welfare facility in response to members request to have it.

In the morning of the visit, the delegates visited Nara Co-op and after being welcomed by MORI Hiroyuki, the chairperson of the board of directors, they received lectures on the outline of Nara Co-op from NAKANO Motoko, the vice chairperson followed by explanation on the

dinner home delivery service by FUKUNISHI Hirotsugu executive officer of the home delivery department.

In the afternoon, the history of the social welfare organization was introduced by MURAKI Tadashi the chairperson of the organization followed by explanation of the content and the care management of the facility giving by OOGUNI Yasuo the executive officer. There was a time for questions and answers where the delegates had the chance to discuss extensively about the running of community integrated care system.



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