

Co-op wins "best award for childrearing goods 2017"

Through questionnaire survey for people who have subscribed to the magazines: "First Tamago (egg)-club," and "Tamago-club," "Hiyoko (baby chick)-club" issued by the Benesse Corporation, Co-op was awarded the 1st place in the "Tamahiyo Childrearing Goods Award 2017" in the food and meal delivery division, announced in March 2017 issue of the magazines released on February 15.

This is the second consecutive time that Co-op has come first in the survey.

The questionnaire survey was performed online with a total of about 2,000 respondents, evaluating Co-ops as the organization producing maternity and kids goods that serve the best interest of children between 0 month and 18 months old and convenient for pregnant women and mothers with small children.

The results ascertain the trust and satisfaction of co-op members receiving services that help with childrearing.

Co-op will continue to strive to provide goods and services that will satisfy child-raising families and maintain this recognition in the future.



this issue

CO-OP Sanchoku Exchanges Held P.1

Kumamoto Consumers Co-operative Union

held "Thank you ceremony" P.2

News in Brief P.3

Co-op "Sanchoku" Research Exchange Held

Co-op Sanchoku, which is a Co-op business, is a specific type of community-supported agriculture philosophy originally developed by the Japanese Consumer Co-operatives in the early 1970s with the intension of promoting safe and secure food production from the viewpoint of the consumer while also addressing food and agricultural problems in Japan.

The main concept is based on such things as, making clear the place of production and producers, method of cultivation and the promotion of interaction between members and producers.

For over 40 years the business continues to evolve in response to changes in society and the lifestyles of consumers.

For more details about "Co-op Sanchoku" refer: http://jccu.coop/eng/products/pdf/coop_sanchoku.pdf

To ensure sustainable production, JCCU has been holding "Annual Sanchoku Research Exchange Meeting" since February 1985. On February 24 & 25, 2017 the 33rd meeting was held in Tokyo with the theme "The future of Food & Agriculture by Co-op Sanchoku".

It was participated by approximately 300 persons including producers, distributors and representatives from consumer co-ops nationwide involved in sanchoku business.

At the general meeting held on 24th, a keynote lecture entitled "Movement of Trans-Pacific Strategic Partnership (TPP) and New Agricultural Management" was given by Professor KANEKO Masaru of Keio University Faculty of Economics. He mentioned that based on the fact that the era is entering the turning point of the industrial structure, there is a possibility that in the future the "regionally distributed network type" social

system and the connection between consumers and producers can become a big force.

Subsequently, there was a report entitled "To the Society of self-production and self-consumption" by Mr. NISHITSUJI Kazuma, CEO My Farm Co., Ltd. emphasizing that if the number of people engaged in agriculture as a hobby increases (growing vegetables by themselves, harvesting and eating) it will lead to the increase of the number of people understanding domestic agriculture.

Taking turns, Mr. TAKAHASHI Hiroyuki the founding director of NPO "Tohoku Reclamation" gave a lecture entitled "Eating Communication" & "Pocket Marche" referring to a food information magazine "Eating Communication" that showcases varieties of food to consumers. He mentioned that the magazine is a means to connect producers to consumers.

At the end of the general meeting the "Sanchoku Business Committee Report" was given as a review of agricultural quality assurance system in 10 years.

There was also a report on future issues of the co-op sanchoku.

At the plenary section which was divided into 5 subcommittees the following topics were discussed.

- (1) The role of Co-op in regional revitalization
- (2) Who is the GAP for?
- (3) Connect production and eating
- (4) Training of leaders of Co-op sanchoku, and
- (5) Securing workers at the production site and possibility of supporting farmers, to deepen discussion based on practical report.

Learning Session on Food Safety and Security

On February 20 2017, Gunma Consumers' Co-operative Union in collaboration with the Gunma Prefecture Food and Life Sanitation Division and the Gunma Food Safety and Security community citizen network held a "Local Course on Imported Agricultural Products and Food Labeling" in Co-op Gunma Hosoi store.

Following the opening, Mr. MITSUHASHI Shuji from Co-op Net Business Federation, Division of Fresh Agricultural Product Procurement, explained the concept of handling imported agricultural products including on-site management situation, safety inspection at the time of import.

Next a video which clearly explains food labeling was shown and further explanation given by the person in-charge of the Gunma Prefecture Food and Environmental Health Division.

Participants then inspected both selling floor and backyard of the Hosoi store to check how the food labeling for vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, sweets, etc. are made. Opinion exchanges were made after the food labeling experience.

Questions such as "is there any difference in the labeling of domestic produce and produce from the prefecture?", "is there any special standards for pesticide for sanchoku products" etc. were raised.



Selling floor inspection by participants.

Kumamoto Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union held "Thank you ceremony"

On February 27, Kumamoto Consumers Co-operative Union held a "Thank you ceremony" to render appreciation to the numerous assistance the prefecture received during and after the disaster of the Kumamoto earthquake in April 2016.

The Kumamoto Consumers co-operative Union has been working with nationwide co-operatives and organizations to provide support supplies, assistance for the elderly and disabled and the support for relocation.

As a keynote address, the Chairman of the Kumamoto Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union Mr. YOSHINAGA Akira expressed his thanks to the various donors for sharing the thoughts of the victims and the reconstruction of the area. 135 people from 62 organizations including representatives from co-ops nationwide participated in the event.

The first part of the ceremony began with reports from disaster areas including the activities of the Kumamoto-city Council of Social Welfare after the disaster by Ms. NAKAGAWA Naoko, making reference to their initiatives in cooperation with the local co-ops.

Thereafter there was a report entitled "Welfare Evacuation Center - a connection of support" from Mr. KOIDE Teruyuki, Deputy Board of Directors, Kumamoto Prefecture Welfare Co-operative for Elderly People with Disabilities. He talked about the safety of disabled people in disaster situations and how they could live with a sense of security and appreciated the efforts made in establishing the evacuation facility. He further mentioned that with the facility it was possible to hold group studies on nutrition and talked about devices to provide handmade meals that could be useful in one's home life.

Also the Managing Director of Kumamoto Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union, Mr. OTANI Nobuhiro reported about the Kumamoto Earthquake and the support from Co-ops nationwide making reference to his own experience and the setting up of "Joint Disaster Countermeasure Headquarters" which utilized the basic policy from the past earthquake experience.

In the second part, there was a keynote lecture entitled "The role of disaster volunteers as seen in the Kumamoto earthquake and what can be expected" by Mr. KIMURA Tadaharu, General Manager of the Kumamoto Prefecture Welfare Town Planning Department.

He talked about how to strengthen the acceptance of and cooperation with volunteers amidst disaster response.

Subsequently, a relay talk was held entitled "What I felt through the disaster, what I should not forget" with the emphasis on the necessity to

support voluntary workers and the efforts to support cooking which was said to be important for the creation of bonds in the future disaster support activities.

In the panel discussion, panelists from Mashiki Town Office, Disaster Volunteer Activity Support Project Conference, Japan Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation, Green Co-op Kumamoto, discussed "The role of co-op in large-scale disasters".

There was also a remark that collaborating at the time of disaster is "a face to face activity" that paves way for making relationship with the people in the community.

At the social gathering, as a guest greeting Mr. KABASHIMA Ikuo, the Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture also gave thanks for the various support received nationwide and promised to restore life into the area based on the restoration and reconstruction plan formulated in August last year.



Keynote address by Mr. YOSHINAGA Akira



U Co-op support Food Bank activity

U Co-op's home delivery business popularly called "Ouchi (home) Co-op" delivers items ordered by the member in the previous week on the same day of the following week. However, under unavoidable circumstances, the member may cancel the order immediately before delivery. In such a case, U Co-op purchases some of the items internally, and the remainder forced to be disposed of.

With the request from Kofu City in Yamanashi Prefecture, U Co-op has recently started to donate the canceled items at the Co-op's Kofu delivery center to support the food bank activity in the prefecture. The item to be delivered is an ambient temperature food with no problem with the content and the expiry date remains one month or more.

U Co-op plans to supply the items once a month through the food bank to serve as a food aid for people who are in need.

Gunma Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union holds workshop

The Women Association of Gunma Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union held a disaster prevention and impairment workshop jointly with Gunma Gender Equality Center on February 22.

The workshop was held to stress the recognition of the importance of women's role in managing evacuation shelters during emergencies. Twenty-eight people from 7 member co-ops including three males participated in the workshop.

Professor AKABANE Junko one of the lecturers mentioned that in the case that a shelter is opened, the principle behind it must be "Publicly-owned" and that the evacuation centers must be managed by the citizens.

News in Brief

JCCU CO·OP Brand New Releases

Two items of CO·OP original cup noodles the "CO·OP mild taste Eggdrop noodle with deep-fried tofu (L)" and "CO·OP mild taste chicken dumpling soba" (R) with a considerable reduction of salt have been developed and marked as a health care good with the highest standard of quality and rich in flavor. The CO·OP original cup noodles was released on March 1 and the other will be on April 1, 2017 at co-op stores and home delivery outlets.

Since 2015 JCCU has been developing CO·OP products with consideration to health and marked with a "health care mark" in response to co-op members seeking "low-salt" products while maintaining the flavor and deliciousness.

For the two items the salt equivalent per meal is reduced to 2.4g and 2.5g respectively representing 34% and 32% salt cut compared with the conventional type.

JCCU will continue to strive to develop products that respond to the opinions of its members.



CO·OP mild taste Eggdrop noodle with deep-fried tofu (L)
CO·OP mild taste chicken dumpling soba" (R)

Kanagawa Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union organizes 2016 Auditors Workshop

On February 8, 2017, Kanagawa Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union organized a workshop for Auditors involved in Co-op business in the prefecture under two themes:

1. The results of guidance inspection for consumer co-ops in 2015
2. The points in annual series of auditing by auditors

It was attended by representatives from the Consumer Division of the Kanagawa Prefectural Government, JCCU and 49 co-op staff from 21 consumer co-ops of Kanagawa Prefecture.

Co-op is a voluntary mutual aid organization of citizens for the cultural and economic improvement of the lives of the members. Under this principle Japanese Consumer Co-ops have actively demonstrated social roles in business and activities under the current Co-op law in Japan in which a fundamental amendment took place in 2007 for the first time in 59 years, as a result of consumer livelihoods and changes in society.

There is a great expectation upon Co-op by members and the local government to consider with a sincere attention to the issues of the local community and to reflect that intention in the plan of the business and activities of the co-op and steadily promote it.

As a result, the roles and responsibilities of the auditors are growing significantly.

The Auditing workshops are aimed at strengthening the governance that enables efficient and healthy cooperative management within the organization by tightening the checking function of the auditor, which is an auditing body, to the Board of Executive Officers.

Every year the Kanagawa Prefectural Consumers' Co-operative holds the workshop sending invitation to auditors and stakeholders outside the prefecture.



Scene of the workshop

Co-op Plaza
3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku
Tokyo, Japan 150-8913
<http://jccu.coop/eng/>
email:kokusai@jccu.coop

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