

### Picture Story of Institutions visited

The African cooperative leaders explore the diverse businesses of Japanese cooperatives



JA Shimizu rose farmer



Consumer coop delivery service



Worker coop members at a childcare facility

The link below shares the views of the participants about the study tour especially how the experience got could lead to the improvement of their cooperative businesses after returning home.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS\\_577532/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS_577532/lang-en/index.htm)



### JCCU Collaborates with ILO office in Japan for a training program for African Co-operative Leaders

Since 2010, Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) in collaboration with the International Labour Office (ILO), especially the Regional Office for Africa (ROAF), the Co-operative Facility for Africa (ILO/COOP Africa), and ILO Office in Japan (ILO Tokyo), has been organizing study tour to Japan for African co-operative leaders with the aim to assist the human resource development of co-operatives in Africa.

JCCU is a member of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) with which ILO has a partnership agreement. ILO is the only institution under the United Nations (UN) that promotes co-operatives as models to address the economic and social needs of communities.

In that relationship, JCCU in collaboration with ILO have been working closely on the formulation of a program to assist the African co-operative movement to strengthen its capacity by introducing the good lessons learnt by the Japanese co-operatives.

From August 28 to September 6, the 8<sup>th</sup> ILO/JCCU study tour was organized in Tokyo and Shizuoka for four participants from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Swaziland, while Ms. Sifa CHIYOGI, Regional Director of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Regional Office for Africa, Ms. Simel ESIM and Ms. Mina WAKI from ILO COOP also joined the tour for the first time.

Participants visited various Japanese co-operatives in Tokyo and the surrounding prefectures including consumers', financial, agricultural, university, health and worker cooperatives, Kagawa Archives & Resource Center among others.

On September 5, to wrap-up the study tour a

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public seminar was held at Co-op Plaza (JCCU headquarters in Tokyo) which brought together 50 participants including officials from the embassies of Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda.

At the beginning of the seminar, Ms. ESIM and Ms. CHIYOGI presented their work and activities on cooperatives in their department, followed by the four African co-operative leaders who also gave brief introduction of their respective cooperatives and lessons learnt from the study tour.

One of the participants said "One of the lessons from the Japanese cooperative movement is the importance of partnership with other organizations. I would like to enhance cooperatives' competitiveness through strengthening the basis of the cooperative movement in my country".

The participants were Mr. OTOO Samuel Addo (Ghana / Ghana Easy Investment Coop Credit Union), Mr. Peter TALAM (Kenya / Magereza Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Ltd.), Mr. Labaran Abdulkareem GARBA (Nigeria / Niger State Teachers Endwell Multi-Purpose Cooperative Union) and Mr. Musa Sydney SIBANDZE (Swaziland / Swaziland Farmers' Co-operative Union Limited).



## Business Summary of Consumer Co-ops Nationwide

On September 21, 2017 JCCU released the business summary for the fiscal 2016 (21 March 2016-20 March 2017) of 566 consumer co-ops nationwide.

### Characteristics of fiscal 2016

#### (1) Increase in the number of members and household membership rate:

Total membership of co-op members nationwide was 28.61 million, an increase of 420,000 from the previous year.

Among them, the number of members of the community-based co-ops was 21.78 million (101.9% same), and the household participation rate was 37.9% (0.4 points up).

#### (2) Numerical value "Increased revenue and fall in ordinary surplus":

The total business turnover was 3,479.4 billion yen, an increase of 34.6 billion yen and the ordinary surplus was 55.6 billion yen, a decrease of 2.9 billion yen (94.9% year on year).

Among them, the total business turnover of the community-based co-ops increased by 31.3 billion (101.1%), to 2,823.4 billion JPY, and ordinary surplus declined 3.2 billion JPY (94.0%), to 50.9 billion JPY.

#### (3) The home delivery business of community-based co-ops continues to be buoyant.

The total turnover increased by 1,737 billion JPY (101.4% compared to the previous year). Among them, "individual home delivery" to private homes was 1,226.8 billion JPY exceeding the previous year by 3.3%.

The store turnover remained almost the same as the previous year at 904.9 billion JPY.

As of the end of fiscal 2016, there was a total of 965 stores (99.7% same as the previous year), and the total stores sales area was 1.28 million square meters (100.7%).

## Public Seminar on Co-operatives and SDGs held

Japan Joint Committee of Co-operative (JCC) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) Office for Japan co-organized a public seminar under the theme "Co-operative Activities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" on September 7, 2017 in Tokyo. The seminar was supported by Japanese Parliamentarians' League on ILO Activities/Japanese Parliamentarians' League on Cooperative Promotion and Research.

Ms. Simel ESIM the Head of the Cooperative Unit, ILO in Geneva took advantage of her visit to Japan to attend the ILO/JCCU study tour of African Co-operative Leaders that took place from August 28th to September 6th, to attend the seminar as the main speaker.

The seminar was participated by approximately 140 people, including co-op stakeholders, academicians and the media.

Following the opening remarks by Mr. KAWASAKI Jiro, President, Japanese Parliamentarians' League on ILO Activities and Mr. YAMADA Toshio Representatives, Japanese Parliamentarians' League on Cooperatives Promotion and Research, Ms. ESIM gave a presentation on ILO's cooperative activities and SDGs. In the presentation she mentioned that cooperatives are recognized as one of the major stakeholders expected to keep advancing activities towards the achievement of the goals of SDGs set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

There were reports on various cooperatives' efforts regarding their role in economic, social and environmental aspects as well as providing examples on the contributions of cooperatives to achieve the SDGs. Furthermore, participant to the "High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development" held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA in July 2017

gave report. In the report it was pointed out that much as it is important for cooperatives to promote cooperation among cooperatives, it is also important to cooperate with civil sectors.

There was time for Q&A and participants interacted with the speakers and passed on their comments.

JCCU will continue to work towards the achievement of SDGs, in cooperation with ILO and other cooperatives.



Presentation: Ms. Simel ESIM the Head of the Cooperative Unit, ILO in Geneva



## JCCU Supports Para Nordic Skiing Japan Team

JCCU has been supporting Para Nordic Skiing Japan Team from 2006 by sponsoring the team and cheering them to work towards a high level of achievement in their career.

On September 13 2017, two of the athletes of the 2016-2017 season, Mr. NITTA Yoshihiro and Ms. ABE Yurika together with Mr. NAGAHAMA Kazutoshi, the coach, paid a courtesy visit to JCCU and reported on the current initiatives of the team and their preparation towards the 2017-2018 season.

They reported on the team preparation towards the season and expressed their gratitude towards the assistance and the support JCCU has been providing them in their previous games. The team is currently preparing towards the cross country skiing and biathlon competition and JCCU

as usual will sponsor the Japanese team and cheer them up.



(From left) Mr. NITTA, Ms. ABE, Mr. NAGAHAMA (head coach)

## CX Cargo receives commendation award

CX Cargo Co., Ltd. a logistics company which is a 100% subsidiary of JCCU received a commendation award from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) for excellence in employment of persons with disabilities for the fiscal 2017.

In every September "Employment of Persons with Disabilities Promotion Month" is observed by MHLW.

The purpose of this promotion is to motivate companies or organizations to have interest and concern to employ persons with disabilities and also encourage workers with disabilities to make effective use of their abilities in their work places and to become independent as capable professionals.

The Ministers Award is held every year and is intended to honor business organizations that are either actively using the services of a large number of employees with disabilities, or with employees with disabilities who have exemplified achievements as professionals.

This year, 22 work places and 18 individuals were awarded.

The awards ceremony was held in Marunouchi MY PLAZA (Tokyo) on September 5, 2017.

YAMADA Hidetaka, the President of CX Cargo representing all the winners expressed his acknowledgment and thankfulness to the Ministry for the recognition.



YAMADA Hidetaka expressing his acknowledgment

## News in Brief

### JCCU CO·OP Brand New releases

Two items of CO·OP original chocolate the "CO·OP cacao 85% chocolate" and the "CO·OP cacao 70% chocolate" have been developed using rainforest alliance certified cacao beans from Ghana and the Cote d'Ivoire. The main feature of the new products is its slight sweetness in bitter flavor. It was released on October 1, 2017.

CO·OP original chocolate is the only one in Japan using materials from Rainforest Alliance Certified farms except for imported chocolates.

JCCU positions "Ethical consumption" as an important theme in this year's CO·OP product and promotes efforts such as product development and campaigns considering the natural environment, people and society.

In October JCCU plans to switch over 80% (Approximately 230 million cups a year) of its coffee and tea using raw materials to rainforest

alliance certified farm. Rainforest Alliance Certified farms meet strict criteria from the viewpoint of ecological protection, environmental preservation, improvement of working environment etc.

The new release items are on sale nationwide at co-op stores and home delivery outlets.



(R) CO·OP cacao 85% chocolate (L) CO·OP cacao 70% chocolate

### Co-op donates to victims of rain disaster in Fukuoka and Oita prefectures

In July, heavy rains hit northern Kyushu in Japan causing extensive damage in Fukuoka and Oita prefectures. Landslides were reported in several areas and some people were also reported missing.

As an emergency fund, JCCU and its member co-ops granted a sum of money as a gift from their reserve fund for disaster recovery to show their sympathy in July, while fund raising was also organized through co-op stores and home delivery outlets until August 21. The donation received has been donated to the two prefectures.

On August 31, 2017, Mr. HIGASHIHARA Koichiro, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Fukuoka Prefecture Consumers Co-operative Union, YAMAMOTO Katsuya Executive Director of JCCU visited Fukuoka Prefectural Government Office and handed over an amount of 176 million JPY to Ms. OMAGARI Akie, Deputy Governor, Fukuoka Prefecture.

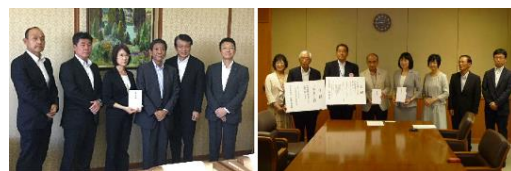
Similarly, on September 4, 2017, the chairperson of the Oita prefecture consumers co-operative union Mr. AOKI Hironori and ARAI Chitose, Vice-President of JCCU paid a visit to Oita prefecture and presented an amount of 64 million JPY to the Oita prefectural governor, Mr. HIROSE Katsusada.

Ms. OMAGARI in her remark said "We will deliver

the donation received and as well as send your heartfelt feelings to the afflicted areas, suffering enormous damage such as agricultural land, forests, etc. Restoration is still half way but we will continue efforts to evacuate people and advance local reconstruction exercise."

Similarly, Mr. HIROSE who received the fund with a feeling of gratitude mentioned that "Hita city in Oita prefecture which suffered great damage from the heavy rain disaster five years ago saw reconstruction from the damage a big challenge and almost lost strength. Receiving this fund is a strong encouragement and a restoration of hope for everyone in the disaster area. I will carefully use it as a reconstruction support fund."

JCCU will continue to work with consumer co-ops nationwide on various support activities to assist people who will fall victim to disasters.



(R) Donation ceremony in Fukuoka prefecture (L) Donation ceremony in Oita prefecture

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