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JCCU Received "Eco Mark Award 2017 Product of the Year"

JCCU received the "Eco Mark Award 2017 Product of the Year" at "Eco Mark Award 2017" ceremony hosted by the Japan Environment Association.

The Eco Mark Award was launched in 2010 by Japan Environment Association to give special recognition to companies making exceptional efforts in the production of eco-friendly products.

The initiative also celebrates, "Product of the Year" which is a commendation for products with excellent environmental performance with advanced eco-friendly design, among others.

JCCU was awarded the "Eco Mark Award 2017", "Product of the Year" award for all the 16 co-op products put on the competition.

The 16 items are the first Eco mark certified products of JCCU after the CO-OP Brand Product revision in 2014.

Recycled plastics made from used PET bottles and plant-derived plastics such as the by-products obtained when sugar cane is refined are used as part of raw materials of the package.

As of October 2017, the Eco Mark certified products of JCCU CO-OP Brand products total 154 items.

“Yonomori” Cherry Blossom Project

On December 2, 2017, at JCCU Headquarters (CO-OP PLAZA) in Tokyo, under the "Yonomori Cherry Blossom Project" sapling planting ceremony was held.

“Yonomori Cherry Blossom Project” is an activity to plant cherry blossom saplings across Japan using saplings which are lineal descendants of cherry blossoms in Yonomori area. Yonomori is woodlands in Tomioka Town, Fukushima Prefecture, famous of its beautiful cherry-tree-lined path.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent Tokyo Electric Power Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, citizens of the whole Tomioka Town were forced to evacuate due to the high levels of radioactive materials.

Although the evacuation had been canceled with effect from April 1, 2017, excluding difficult-to-return areas, the road to recovery is still far away, and various challenges of everyday life still remains.

This project aims to let the cherry blossoms of Yonomori, a symbol of Tomioka-cho and one of spiritual home of Tomioka citizens, bloom beautifully every year all over Japan, for the citizens still in evacuation and people who feel sympathy to the current status of Tomioka Town. Present at the planting ceremony were, Mr. TAKIZAWA Katsumi, deputy mayor of Tomioka

Town, the President of Co-op Fukushima, Mr. KONNO Toshio, and Ms. YAMADA Kana, Board Member of Co-op Fukushima.

Mr. TAKIZAWA in his speech mentioned that in April 2017, evacuation in part of Tomioka Town was canceled and for the first time in seven years people came together in the Yonomori area for the cherry blossom festival.

Mr. KONNO also mentioned that many co-operatives have agreed to assist in the future restoration of Tomioka Town through activities of the “Yonomori Cherry Blossom Project”. He commented that these efforts will enhance their revival.

HONDA Eiichi, President of JCCU said “ I would carefully protect and foster this cherry blossom sapling we planted today, I hope JCCU and consumer co-ops nationwide will not forget the disaster areas and continue to help with the reconstruction efforts”.



From left, Mr. KONNO, Ms. YAMADA, Mr. TAKIZAWA and HONDA

Season’s Greetings to all our readers

As this is the last newsletter before the New Year, it seems a good opportunity to thank you all for your interest and reading of JCCU News over the past years.

In this season of gratitude, we are thankful for your friendship and support.

All of us at JCCU especially the International Department join in saying “Thank you” and wish you all a Happy Holiday and Fruitful New Year.

Co-op detergent environmental donation campaign

Since 2011, Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union has been organizing "CO-OP Environmental Campaign Fund" every year to raise money to support environmental activities both in Japan and abroad. One of the aims of this campaign is to spread the environmental friendliness of CO-OP detergents and also to contribute to environmental protection.

The campaign focuses on the sale of CO-OP detergents where for every purchase of a particular laundry detergent, one yen is donated to the fund. The target products of the campaign were 11 items of laundry detergents (CO-OP Sefter-NEXT, CO-OP Sefter-Energy Antibacterial/deodorant etc.)

This year the campaign was conducted between April 21 to October 20 2017 with the participation of 99 community-based consumer co-ops realizing a total amount of 4.14 million JPY.

The amount will be donated to the NPO Borneo Conservation Trust Japan (BCTJ) for biodiversity conservation activities in Borneo and other organizations where community-based consumer co-ops have been working together on environmental conservation activities.

In late 1960, rainforests in Borneo started to shrink rapidly because of deforestation, coal extraction, development of oil palm plantations, etc. Oil palm is one of main raw materials of laundry detergents.

JCCU will continue to work on various environmental protection activities with environmental groups and diffusion of environmentally friendly products.



ICA-AP Training Program for Managers of Consumer Co-ops

Twice in a year, in the months of July and November, ICA-AP in collaboration with Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) organizes a training program for managers of consumer cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region under the "Asian Consumer Co-operative Development Fund" established by JCCU and its member co-ops for the development co-operatives in Asia in 1987.

In November, the second batch of the 2017 fiscal year program was held from November 20 to December 3 2017, in cooperation with Co-opdeli Consumers' Co-operative Union and Co-op Kobe who provided the training grounds, facilities and resource persons.

It was attended by five co-operative store managers from NTUC FairPrice Singapore (Mr. HENG Jing Yi, Ms. NG Lay Chin & Mr. NG Ser Tiong) and Saigon Coop (Mr. TRAN Quoc Viet, Ms. HUYNH Bich Thuy).

The training module consisted of lectures, store training and tour of co-op facilities that allowed the trainees to learn extensively about the productivity improvement of co-op store business, how members voice are incorporated in co-op business and activities and the voluntary circle activities of the co-op members.

At the Co-opdeli Consumers' Co-operative Union, the group received lecture on outline of Co-opdeli Group and Co-op Mirai and paid visits to Coopdeli Distribution Center, one of Co-opdeli store and housing for the elderly with home-care services to learn about the welfare service business of consumer coops.

In Co-op Kobe, they received various lectures including the outline of the organization, efforts of business reform in store operation,

quality assurance, staff education, customer service education, home delivery business and dinner delivery service, and a practical training at a store. At the end of the program trainees made presentation to the board members of Co-op Kobe.

They expressed their ideas about how they could use the training experience to solve practical solutions in their respective co-ops upon returning to their home countries.

They returned home on December 3, 2017



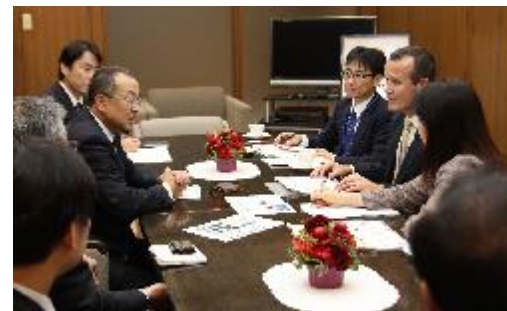
MSC Rupert Howes paid a visit to JCCU

On November 2, 2017, at the request of MSC Japan office Mr. Rupert Howes, CEO of MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) paid a courtesy visit to JCCU and had a talk with SHIMADA Hiroyuki, the Managing Director/CEO. MSC is an independent nonprofit organization that recommends sustainable fishery.

During their discussion, Mr. Howes mentioned the importance of MSC certification efforts, touching on the fact that sustainable fishery has shown scientific data that the marine ecosystem is being improved one after another.

In addition, with the increase in MSC certification acquisition, Mr. Howes hopes that the 14th goal of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) stated at the United Nations Summit " with the aim to protect the richness of the sea" can be realized.

SHIMADA touched on the fact that JCCU emphasizes food safety and security, and that sustainable procurement is an important theme for consumer co-ops in Japan, and continues to increase the number of products that acquire MSC certification and disseminate the information to co-op members.



Exchange meetings for Regional Support Welfare Grant organizations held

JCCU and Japan CO-OP Insurance Consumers' Co-operative Federation (JCIF) held exchange meetings for organizations receiving Regional Support Welfare Grant on December 7, 2017 in Tokyo and December 15 in Osaka. In total 95 people including grant recipients participated.

The Regional Support Welfare Grant is part of the social contribution activities by JCIF and has been implemented since FY 2012.

JCIF support up to 1 million yen per organization on activities that fulfill two conditions: The activity is in line with one of the three themes of the Grant. The activity is co-worked by a consumer co-op and the organization.

The exchange meeting took the theme "cooperation between the community and the co-op".

At the Tokyo venue a lecture was given by FUTAMURA Chikako, Director of Member Relations Division, JCCU on the topic "Aim of Regional Support Welfare Grant".

Activity report by subsidy recipient organizations were also given followed by exchange of opinions by participants.



State of Tokyo venue

News in Brief

JCCU website introduces a movie gallery of four major activities of Consumer Co-op members in fiscal 2017

Japanese consumer co-operatives are member based organization and members voices are highly respected and incorporated in co-op businesses and activities.

On December 17, JCCU put on their website newly-arrived videos "CO·OP Pickup No4" covering some activities of co-op members.

"CO·OP Pickup" is a series of short movies that introduces examples of activities of consumer co-ops and its members nationwide.

At the movie gallery page of JCCU's official website, movies about "CO·OP Brand Products Festa", Hibakusha Appeal (Hibakusha International Signature Campaign), and Disaster Recovery Support are shown. This time JCCU added a new movie about "Circulation of Members' Voice", which is mainly about production site visits by members.

Production site visits by consumer co-op members always go with exchanges with the producers and manufacturers, building a strong face to face relationship with them.

Under these circumstances, various opinions such as gratitude to producers and manufacturers, requests for improvement, etc. are delivered directly to consumer co-ops' management for the right action to be taken.



CO・OP商品実感フェスタ



ヒバクシャ国際署名



災害復興支援の取り組み



組合員の声の循環

JCCU Releases Business Summary

JCCU summarizes November 2017 business turnover of 65 community-based co-ops nationwide operating stores and home delivery service.

In November, both the home delivery and store sales turnover exceeded the previous year. The store turnover was 100.4% compared with the previous year. The value turned positive for the first time in 3 months, accounting for 34.5% (composition ratio) of the total business turnover.

Agricultural products and daily foods were again strong backbone of the sales.

The home delivery amounted to 101.2% over the previous year (composition ratio 63.2%) and together with fiscal 2015, it has exceeded the previous year for 32 consecutive months.

The cumulative growths for the 8 month period from April 2017 to November 2017 show a year-on-year increase of 0.8% and 1.3% respectively for the total turnover and the home delivery turnover, with a break-even (no increase) in the store turnover

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