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## “Eco Mark Award 2017” award ceremony held

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

An award ceremony was held at the Eco Mark Forum on January 22, 2018.

"Eco Mark Award" is a system that recognizes excellent efforts of companies, organizations, etc., that have greatly contributed to "consumer's environment-conscious product selection, and formation of a sustainable society through corporate environmental improvement efforts".

The "Product of the Year" is a commendation for products with excellent environmental performance and advanced eco-friendly design, etc. This time, all the JCCU Eco mark certified products (16 items) using recycled plastics and plant-derived plastics as packaging material were selected.

During the introduction of the case examples of the winners, FUJII Yoshitsugu, Executive Director of JCCU introduced the company's initiative towards promoting environmentally conscious products under the viewpoint of co-op members in the development of CO-OP Brand Products.



State of the awards ceremony



## New Year's Message HONDA Eiichi President of JCCU

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Co-operative members, staff members, stakeholders and Co-operative colleagues around the world a sincere Happy New Year 2018.

In 2017, consumer co-operatives nationwide promoted activities that aimed at solving regional problems.

In recent days, problems of inequality and poverty are getting worse in Japan, and in order to extend assistance to solve such problems, consumer co-ops nationwide are working with diversified groups such as the food banks and children's cafeterias and with the cooperation of the local people. Many organizations including governments and individual people are motivated to achieve the United Nations "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

"The philosophy of the SDGs "Leaving no one behind" is consistent with the ideals and policies of Japanese Consumer Co-operatives.

JCCU and member co-ops are engaged in a variety of initiatives through co-op businesses, aiming at helping to change the current Japanese society to a type where no one is left behind. In order to create a community where people can feel safe and live in the sense of security, consumer co-ops nationwide, through regional cooperation, will expand the areas in which co-op members could join forces by strengthening the efforts that take advantage of the strengths of the co-op.

We look forward to working with all of you in the spirit of cooperation.

## JCCU releases total amount of donation to flood victims

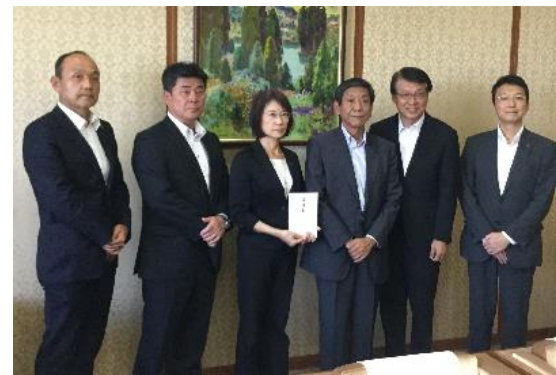
In order to support the rebuilding of the lives of the victims and the reconstruction activities of the local area after the July 2017 heavy rains that hit northern Kyushu (Fukuoka Prefecture & Oita Prefecture), JCCU called for emergency donation from its member co-ops nationwide.

Right after the disaster, from July 10 to December 4, 2017, a total amount of 266.6 million JPY was received from 141 consumer co-ops and business federations nationwide.

The amount of fund raising received by JCCU through member co-ops has been delivered to the victims through the municipalities and consumer co-ops in the disaster area, and will be used as support funds for the victims.

The total amount of donation to Fukuoka and

Oita prefectures were 198.9 million JPY and 62.4million JPY respectively.



Donated funds for primary consolidation to Fukuoka Prefecture (August 31, 2017)

## 2018 New Year Reception Held

Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU), the Japan CO-OP Insurance Consumers' Co-operative Federation (JCIF) and the Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation (HeW CO-OP JAPAN) co-organized a new year reception on January 16, 2018.

About 1,200 people, including co-op stakeholders, co-operative organizations, leaders from various institutions including cabinet members, political parties and local government attended.

Following the opening address by HONDA Eiichi, President of JCCU, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) Mr. KATO Katsunobu took turn and expressed that the Government acknowledges the role co-ops play through their businesses and activities in creating communities based on the view point of consumers and still expects co-ops to continue this goodwill.

In addition Mr. SAITO Juro, Chairperson, Japan National Council of Social Welfare addressed the participants saying that he would further advance the cooperation between the consumer co-ops and the councils of social welfare in the community.

At the breaking open the New Year's sake barrels, each political party, friendship organizations, business partners and representative from various co-ops went on the stage and a toast was proposed by Mr. KAWAMURA Kazuo, Chairperson of the association of business partners of JCCU to declare the opening of the New Year.



Scene at the breaking open the New Year's sake barrels

## Consumer Co-ops held 2018 National Policy Review Meeting

Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) and the Japan CO-OP Insurance Consumers' Co-operative Federation (JCIF) co-organized a national policy review meeting for consumer co-ops nationwide on January 16-17, 2018. It was attended by 429 persons.

The meeting which is held every year in January, was attended by board members and executive officers from co-ops across the nation to discuss and engage in exchanges to deepen understanding regarding the contents of the policies formulated for co-ops businesses and activities for the 2018 fiscal year and beyond.

HONDA Eiichi, President of JCCU, in his opening remark, mentioned that he is proud that more than 70 years have passed since the World War II and since that Japan has not been a country of war but rather continues to be a society where anyone can live in peace and with a sense of security.

He further stated that he would work towards enhancing the cooperation between co-ops nationwide to further engage in activities that would contribute to the building of a peaceful society.

A commemorative lecture was given by Ms. NEMOTO Kaoru, Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Tokyo, on the theme of "SDGs and Co-ops expectations".

She mentioned that SDGs are universal common measures which clarifies what we are already working on, however, she calls for a continued effort by all towards achievement of its goals.

Subsequently, a keynote report was given by SHIMADA Hiroyuki, Managing Director/CEO of JCCU on the summary of the business activities of co-ops nationwide in the FY 2017, announcing the achievements and challenges and an activity plan for FY 2018, emphasizing on priority tasks.

## JCCU Releases Business Summary

JCCU summarizes December 2017 business turnover of 64 community-based co-ops nationwide operating stores and home delivery service.

In December, both the store and home delivery sale turnovers exceeded the previous year. The store turnover was JPY 83.9 billion (101.0% y/y) and the home delivery JPY 165.5 billion (101.9% y/y).

Taking turns, the Managing Director of JCIF, OGIHARA Takashi, also presented a business summary of fiscal 2017 and a second draft plan for the fiscal 2018.

During the plenary session, participants aggressively discussed and debated on some of the key issues brought up in the activity and business plan for 2018 to deepen understanding about the task to pursue in 2018.



Ms. NEMOTO Kaoru (commemorative lecture on SDGs)



Scene of the plenary session

With regards to the total business turnover the composition ratio of the store and home delivery were 32.9% and 64.9% respectively. By classification, livestock was the strong backbone of the sales.

For 33 consecutive months, from 2015 fiscal year, the total turnover of the home delivery business had exceeded the previous year.

## “Co-op Kyosai Plaza” wins a prize

The headquarters “Co-op Kyosai Plaza” of the Japan CO-OP Insurance Consumers’ Co-operative Federation (JCIF) which was completed in May 2015, has received Examination Committee Encouragement Prize at the “Large Building Category” of the 7<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Building Award sponsored by Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation (IBEC). The award ceremony was held on January 23, 2018.

By honoring leading sustainable buildings that have remarkable results in reducing environmental impact, CO2 reduction and energy conservation modeling, the award aims to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society by improving and disseminating design, construction, operation management technology etc.

The award was given based on the following appreciations:

- 1) The green curtain on the balcony is extremely effective as an external sunshade
- 2) to realize day-to-day energy-saving to prepare for disaster
- 3) adopting a heat source system that utilizes renewable energy such as solar heat
- 4) adopting a ventilation system that automatically opens and closes according to the natural conditions of indoor and outdoor

In order to realize a sustainable society, JCCU and JCIF will continue to carry out projects that take into consideration the environment.



Co-op Kyosai Plaza

## “CO-OP Core Non Smile School Project” donation presentation held

JCCU and member Co-ops in cooperation with the Japan Committee for UNICEF had launched a UNICEF donation campaign under the theme “CO-OP core non smile school project” to raise funds to help improve the education environment for the school children in the Republic of Angola since 2010.

One yen from the sale of each pack of CO-OP brand toilet paper “core non roll” is donated to UNICEF for the project.

The seventh phase of the project was executed from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017 through the home delivery catalog and the store outlets of community-based consumer co-ops nationwide.

During this one year period, approximately 11 million packs were sold yielding an amount of 11 million JPY.

On December 19, 2017, the seventh donation presentation ceremony was held at the UNICEF House in Tokyo, where the amount was presented to Mr. HAYAMI Ken, Executive Director of Japan Committee for UNICEF by ARAI Chitose and WADA Toshiaki, the Vice President and the Managing Director respectively of JCCU, to support the “children-friendly” school project for the Angola children.

Also present at the ceremony were representative of eight core non roll manufacturers who have immensely supported this project. Since the launch of this project in 2010 a total amount of 81.85 million JPY has been donated to the school project.

JCCU expresses gratitude to everyone involved in this initiative.



Pose of participants that took part in the ceremonial donation

## Palsystem Consumers’ Co-operative Union wins SDGs Award

The Japanese Government’s SDGs Promotion Headquarters has newly established “Japan SDGs Award” as one of its initiatives to achieve the goals of the SDGs in Japan.

The award honors companies and organizations that make excellent efforts toward achieving SDGs adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and its first award ceremony was held on December 26, 2017 in Tokyo.

From September 21 to November 21 2017, a public offering was made inviting companies and organizations that are making outstanding efforts to achieve SDGs.

Three types of award were defined as follows:

- (1) SDGs Promotion Headquarters (Prime Ministers) Award, meant for companies and organizations that are deemed to have extremely remarkable achievements
- (2) Deputy Director SDGs Promotion Headquarters (Chief Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Minister Award) for SDGs promotion, for companies found to have particularly notable achievements
- (3) Special Prize “SDGs Partnership Award” for companies and organizations that are deemed to have notable achievements.

While the total number of entries exceeded 280, Palsystem Consumers’ Co-operative Union received the Deputy Director SDGs Promotion Headquarters (Chief Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Minister) Award, as “an organization with outstanding achievement” in the following actions;

1) Co-op members knowing the value and choosing the original products of Palsystem Consumers’ Co-operative Union. Buying these products contribute to SDGs.

2) Co-op members meeting and having exchanges with producers and also having product learning sessions, exhibition of products etc.

3) Co-op members working on reducing wastage through the use of food ingredient management application and preservation. The awards ceremony was held on December 26, 2017 at the Prime Minister’s Official Residence.

Mr. ISHIDA Atsushi, the president of Palsystem Consumers’ Co-operative Union received the certificate on behalf of the company.



## CO-OP × Red Cup Campaign

The "CO-OP × Red Cup Campaign" is an initiative by JCCU and its member Co-ops in cooperation with the Japan Association for the World Food Program (JAWFP) to extend support to the "School Meal Program" in selected countries to support the meal supply of school children.

The initiative was first carried out in Ghana for a period of three years from 2014 to 2016 realizing a total of 11.06 million JPY which was estimated to have supplied about 360,000 meals.

The 3-year program is completed successfully and from 2017 the Government of Ghana has taken over the management of the school lunch program.

The same initiative is now being carried out in the Kingdom of Cambodia for a period of 3 years ending 2020.

The campaign was launched from October 1 to November 20, 2017 through consumer co-ops store outlets and home delivery catalog with the same campaign condition where one yen from the sale amount of some target CO-OP Brand Products is donated to WFP for the WFP School Meal Program. Within this campaign period an amount of 5.15 million JPY was realized which will be presented to the Japan Association for the World Food Program (JAWFP).

This brings the total amount obtained so far for this CO-OP Red Cup Campaign initiative since 2014 to be 16.2 million JPY.

Through social contribution from the sale of CO-OP products, JCCU and member co-ops as well as co-op members and producers will continue to support UN agencies to offer various assistance to developing countries.



Target CO-OP Brand Products

## News in Brief

### Hiroshima Prefecture Consumer Co-op Union held 50th anniversary meeting

On Thursday, January 11, in Hiroshima, the Hiroshima Prefecture Consumer Co-operative Union celebrated the official beginning of the New Year, 2018.

The Prefectural Union celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding last year. It was attended by 130 people consisting of members of member co-ops, executives and employees of consumer co-ops, government officials and co-op stake holders.

The opening greetings were given by Mr. OKAMURA Nobuhide President of Hiroshima Prefecture Consumer Co-op Union, followed by two congratulatory addresses.

The first address was given by Ms. MORINAGA Chie, Director-General of Hiroshima Prefecture Environment and Citizens Affairs Bureau, on the theme "Cooperation with co-operatives that are engaged in community-based activities is indispensable, I would like to ask for continued cooperation toward the realization of safety and secure lifestyle for the residents in the prefecture".

Taken turns, Mr. MOMIDA Kiyoshi, the President, Hiroshima Prefectural Union of Agricultural Co-operatives also addressed the audience on the theme "Collaboration between co-operatives is important for building a sustainable society in the future, and collaboration between JA and consumer co-ops will create a new era".

A memorial lecture was also given by Dr. TAKEDA Haruhito, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, on the theme "Aiming for a symbiotic society - from the viewpoint of the Japanese economy, seen from a historical perspective".

The main focus was the relationship between economic efficiency and the degree of happiness. Professor TAKEDA mentioned that even if the economy had become globalized, the satisfaction level of the public has not risen and emphasized

the role of organizations like co-operatives which satisfy social needs.



State of the venue



Congratulatory address by Ms. MORINAGA Chie



Memorial lecture by Prof. TAKEDA Haruhito,

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