

CO₂ emission reduction plan contd:

CO₂ reduction would be carried out through operational improvement and streamlining of the head office functions. Renovation of equipments and power saving measures would be enforced.

Through business collaboration sharing of facilities would improve logistics, which will lead to the reduction of CO₂ emissions. During facility renovation, co-op will promote energy-saving measures by employing the use of LED lighting.

Purchasing carbon credit from a domestic trading company and green energy certified tariff entitle us to 24,000 tons CO₂ reduction less than the fiscal 2005.

In total the CO₂ reduction target for all divisions for 2020 fiscal year is 702,000 tons which is 136,000 tons less than fiscal 2005.

Co-op has introduced a variety of energy-saving measures in its stores across the country.

One of the stores with the most efficient energy saving measures is Co-op Kobe's (Co-op Kanki), which was opened in April 2010 in Hyogo prefecture. (Picture above)

From 2004, with the aim of reducing CO₂ emissions in co-op business, each co-op has developed and advancing "Global Warming Prevention Voluntary Action Plan" in line with the 2007 Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare's Voluntary Action Plan on the environment for organizations.



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JCCU releases CO₂ emission reduction plans

In determining the fiscal 2020 greenhouse gas (CO₂) emissions reduction target for co-ops nationwide, the long-term total reduction plan for 53 co-ops and co-op business federations as well as JCCU has been tabulated.

As against the emission reduction result of 838,000 tons in fiscal 2005, the fiscal 2020 CO₂ emission outlook of the entire co-op is now 702,000 tons, (reduced by about 15% compared to 2005) as shown in the table below.

Long-term plan total reduction (aggregate value), 53 co-ops, co-op federations & JCCU (Unit: thousand tons)

Year	FY 2005	FY 2011	FY 2013 prospects	FY 2015 prospects	FY 2017 prospects	FY 2020 prospects
Total (all co-ops)	838	794	761	734	729	702

Upon aggregation, the enforcement schedule of various energy-saving measures and the business growth of each co-op and business federation has been considered.

With fiscal 2005 as benchmark, the CO₂ reduction target in 2020 for various business divisions is calculated shown in the table below.

(Unit: thousand tons)

Division	Reduction from the fiscal 2005
Store	-91
Home Delivery	+15
Head office	-17
Logistics & Others	-19
Carbon offset	-24
Total	-136

For the store business, CO₂ reduction for fiscal 2020 is estimated to be 744,000 tons, which is 91,000 tons less than the estimate for 2005.

The main reduction measure is to further advance the "eco-store concept" of power and energy savings, by employing LED lightning and the replacement of refrigerators especially during store remodeling as it has been practiced since the Great East Japan Earthquake.

For the home delivery business, CO₂ emission for fiscal 2020 is estimated to be 15,000 tons more than 2005.

The increase in the emission is due to the switching from the use of dry ice to freezing cold storage agent, used for maintaining freshness of items during delivery, which uses more electric power than the former.

In addition, since it is difficult to assume, at present, the extensive introduction of BDF (Bio-diesel fuel) and electric vehicles by 2020, we do not anticipate CO₂ reduction from the use of these vehicles.



Co-op Sapporo BDF home delivery truck. Use does not increase the emissions of CO₂. 755 BDF trucks are in use nationwide since February 2012.

Co-op Nagano opens child-raising support center

Part of Co-op Nagano *Inasato* store was renovated to attach a child-raising support center, which was opened on March 15, 2013.

Until now, *Kosodate Hiroba* (child-raising circle) which has been held twice a month in the members meeting room in the store has been expanded to six days a week from Monday to Saturday.

At this center the child-raising mothers come together in a group and freely discuss child-raising concerns.

Five staff including a nursery teacher is allotted to support the mothers by answering to their worries arising from child-raising while their kids play nearby.

Immediately after opening the center, about 10 parent-child groups have been visiting the center daily.

Co-op aims at becoming a place where it can contribute not only to product purchasing but also through activities that can improve the lives of the local residents.

Throughout Japan, consumer co-ops have expanded their social services to include organizing child raising support schemes for families with small children.

In 2011, more than 110,000 families joined in these child-raising support activities, which were held in 438 child-raising centers.



Opening ceremony of Co-op Nagano center

Consumer Co-op's Energy Business

The TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant Accident caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake brought a huge damage and urged Co-op to reconsider its electricity and energy policy as well as members' life and Co-op businesses.

In respect of this JCCU formed an ad hoc committee in May 2011 to investigate the energy situation by conducting a pool asking members opinions about Japan's future energy.

The results of the survey revealed that 51% of members agreed with 'long-term abolition' of nuclear power, while 15% settled on 'early abolition' of which a report was submitted to the Japanese Government for consideration.

Under this background JCCU and member Co-ops are considering the launch of Co-op Energy business based on three recommendations.

The first recommendation calls for energy savings by all co-ops. Reexamination and optimization of electricity usage in all existing stores is being promoted in order to meet co-op nationwide long-term plan for the reduction of the greenhouse gas (CO₂), while also continue to promote learning activities to raise members awareness about energy savings in their homes.

Announcement of the birth of "U-Coop"

Three co-ops; Co-op Kanagawa, Co-op Shizuoka and the Citizen Co-op Yamanashi, which operate in Kanagawa, Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures respectively have merged to become a new co-op under the official name "Consumers Co-operative U Co-op", abbreviated U Co-op.

The official inauguration of the merger was made on March 21, 2013.

Full business operation has commenced since the inauguration.

U Co-op has membership of 1.8 million and business turnover of 190.6 billion JPY. The members share capital, which is the main seed money on which the business is being run, stands 42.5 billion JPY.

Business facilities include 134 store outlets and 33 delivery centers for the home delivery business.

Through products and services, the Co-op aims to contribute to the regional development and the community where members could live everyday with a smile, and to work with members in a variety of themes such as food safety, peace, environmental conservation, welfare and child-rearing and additionally to continue to connect to the world through efforts of UNICEF and disaster relief funding.

The second recommendation calls for a 20% generation of electricity by consumer co-ops nationwide by 2020. This value is equivalent to 100,000 kilowatts (100 MW) scale.

By 2015 co-op aims at generating half of the required capacity, which is equivalent to 50,000 kilowatts, (50 MW) scale by making effective use of assets and resources of each co-op and taking advantage of the Feed-in Tariff System (FIT) for the production of renewable energy.

Solar power generation is being advanced by many consumer co-ops. In 2012 a total of 10,000 kilowatts was generated from unused space of co-op facilities. Co-op aims at increasing this to 20,000 kilowatts by 2015.

For the generation of renewable energy other than solar, such as wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass and others, JCCU requests each co-op to cooperate with the various institutions and organizations in respective local regions to advance it.

Co-op as an organization would consider measures in regard to the provision of investment, encourage member participation of the share capital and promote usage of the generated renewable energy.



Mr. TOUGU Shinichi (Chairman, U Co-op)

In a message given by the chairman at the start of U Co-op, he stated that the new co-op would continue the history and traditions of the three co-ops that have promoted solidarity between the co-ops in the three prefectures.

He also mentioned that time has reached a major turning point, where expectations for cooperatives are growing worldwide as a result of excessive market fundamentalism.

He concluded; "We are located in a very challenging economic environment, competitive environment, but will continue to pursue business that reflects our basic identity as co-op".

Miyagi Co-op Fund for UNICEF in 2012

The Cumulative amount of donation from Miyagi Co-op members and stakeholders towards UNICEF funding totaled about 100 million JPY in the fiscal 2012.

On April 12, in Miyagi Co-op Cultural Center (WITH), UNICEF donation presentation ceremony for 2012 was held.

Miyagi Co-op Vice-president, Ms. NAKAMURA Yuko presented the amount to Ms. SHIMIZU Eiko Director of Miyagi Prefecture Committee for UNICEF.

The fund-raising activities were organized in late summer through autumn during the Co-op committee meetings and also through "hand-in-hand" co-op activities organized in 46 store outlets of Miyagi Co-op. Request was also placed in the home delivery purchase order, which received greater donation.

Breakdown of the donation is as follows:

1. General Fund Raising 6,149,357 JPY
2. Fundraising campaign (stores) 919,053 JPY
3. Donation through collection of milk cartons 2,603,213 JPY
4. Donation through the collection of Plastic bottle caps 64,527 JPY

Out of this amount 3.9 million JPY was donated as a specified fundraising to Nepal, 50 million JPY to Syria as an emergency fund and the rest was remitted for the protection of lives of children in developing countries.

On the other hand, the UNICEF donation for all co-ops nationwide in 2012 was 178.6 million JPY.



Ms. Nakamura presents the donation to Ms. Shimizu

Workshop on Work-Life balance

On March 2, the Tokyo Metropolitan Consumer Co-operative Union gender equality promotion coordination committee and the Nakano Gender Equality Center co-sponsored a workshop on work-life balance at the Tokyo Metropolitan Consumer Co-operative Hall.

The main purpose of the workshop was to back-up the promotion of work-life balance activities that have been newly initiated in the Nakano ward for companies operating in there.

This is the fourth time the workshop has been organized. The first workshop addressed universal workplace by emphasizing the need to adapt office environments so that persons with physical or sensory impairments can work in the same manner as non-disabled peers.



Scene of the workshop

JCCU Staff Volunteers assist with Wakame seaweed processing

From the 5th to 6th April 2013, JCCU staff volunteer group made up of 21 participated in wakame seaweed processing operations of Taro Fisheries Co-op, in the Taro district of Miyako city, Iwate Prefecture.

Taro Fisheries Co-op is an association of fishermen that maintain a sustainable environment for the production of seaweed and other aquatic plants in the Sanriku coast.

Seaweed of Sanriku is well known as a brand product with high quality, and it is one of the major local industries in the region.

During the Great East Japan Earthquake the working facilities of the fishery co-op suffered catastrophic damage. All the fishing villages and ports in which it operates were damaged. Taro Fisheries is earnestly working towards the reconstruction and revival of the business with the co-operation of federation members, individual members and the local government.

The peak harvest time of Sanriku wakame is from the early to mid April. This time is the busiest for Taro fisheries and JCCU staff volunteers felt their assistance would help hence their participation.

Because the sea was rough during the two days that JCCU staff visited, they were given the task of packing the salted processed seaweed.

The morning of the second day, the Japanese Prime Minister ABE Shinzo who was on a tour to the earthquake and tsunami devastated area, was unexpectedly guided by a staff of Taro Fisheries to the working place where the JCCU staff volunteers were working.

The middle picture on the right shows Prime Minister Abe receiving explanation on the work process.



JCCU Staff Volunteers and staff of Taro Fisheries pose for a group picture

JCCU participated in CCCF Meetings

As a member of ICA, JCCU participates in Codex Alimentarius Commission as an observer in the area of food safety.

Codex is an institution of FAO/WHO, which was established in 1963 seeking to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade through adoption of food standards, codes of practice and other guidelines developed by its committees.

The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) held its 7th Session in Moscow (Russian Federation) from 8 to 12 April. The Session, which was attended by 63 Member countries, one member Organization and 11 International Organizations including ICA, discussed a proposed draft revision of maximum levels for lead in selected commodities.

Mr. Igor Ivanovich Shuvalov, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, opened the Session. He emphasized the importance of discussions that would lead to appropriate standards for foods to balance the health protection of consumers.

Mr. ONITAKE Kazuo from JCCU who is one of the representatives from ICA, in his report after the meeting, suggested that as more involvement of consumers in the Codex work is enhanced by the Commission, more participation in Codex meetings and/or more input to the Codex work by ICA members are encouraged.



Scene at the session

Documents and agenda items can be accessible at the Codex website at:

www.codexalimentarius.org.

News in Brief

ICA/NCCF Workshop in India on Consumer Co-ops

ICA/NCCF Workshop on Development of Consumer Cooperatives was held on 3rd April 2013 in Goa, India. The National Co-operative Consumers' Federation Ltd. of India (NCCF) hosted this Workshop, which was attended by 50 delegates from consumer cooperative movement in India, Japan and Vietnam.

The objectives of the Workshop was to promote understanding of co-operative principles, to strengthen management of consumer co-operative societies and to understand the present status and problem areas of consumer co-operatives, and finally to strengthen relationship with local government.

The Committee sets the target region of the Workshop to SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries, focusing on the development of consumer co-operatives in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The inauguration ceremony started with a welcome speech by Mr. Virendra Singh, Chairman of the NCCF followed by an opening remark given by Mr. AMANO Haruyoshi, Chairman of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA Asia and the Pacific (AP) also gave special greetings.

The Honorable Minister for Cooperation, Government of Goa, Mr. P. M. Dhavlikar lighted a memorial lamp.

Five reports were presented during the workshop, namely; Cooperative Law and Management & Future Challenges of Consumer Co-operatives in India, Government Policy on Consumer Cooperatives in Goa, Business Collaboration in Store Operations amongst Cooperatives in Japan, Current Status of Consumer Cooperatives in India and their Challenges, Introduction of Saigon CO.OP and Joint Venture with NTUC Fairprice.

Special invitee, Mr. Ramakant Khalap, Ex Union Law Minister, Government of India also delivered a speech.



Delegates pose for a group picture

JCCU releases two carbon footprint (CFP) marked beverages

In Mid-April, Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) launched two additional products with carbon footprint indication as part of an on-going drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help members make "green" purchase decisions through the display of the carbon footprint mark.

The two items namely; CO·OP Mineral Water 2L and CO·OP Tea 500ml add to the existing JCCU carbon footprint (CFP) authentication goods making it 39 in total.

CFP is a mechanism that converts into carbon dioxide the amount of emission of the greenhouse gas discharged in all the processes from supply and manufacture of the raw material of goods to disposal recycling. The calculated value is displayed on the items package.

From autumn 2013, all JCCU CO·OP brand mineral water in plastic bottles is expected to carry CFP mark.

In addition, JCCU is actively engaged in the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly products.

So far, JCCU has been promoting the development of environmentally friendly products with Eco Mark certification, including MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). As of March 2013, the total number of certified products was 260.



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