

U Co-op and Kanagawa University Co-op enters agreement

On September 18, U Co-op and Kanagawa University Co-op signed a comprehensive agreement of cooperation across diverse disciplines such as social contribution, environmental activities, business and product collaborations.

Subsidy to private universities students in the Tokyo metropolitan area continues to decrease every year, and with the consumption tax hike from April this year, student are encountering more hardship in their living.

Through this agreement, the student members of Kanagawa University Co-op, who subscribe to U Co-op, will receive 5% discount service on the total amount of purchase from any of the U Co-op stores near the university as part of U Co-op student life support initiatives.

Moreover, for the improvement of the cooking processing facilities in the stores and the quality assurance of the student canteen, mutual cooperation such as sharing of periodical food hygiene pertinent information will be advanced.

Furthermore, during Kanagawa university festival, U Co-op plans to stage a booth and use the school canteen for cultural interchange among members.

From now on, through the cooperation of both co-ops the co-operative movement in Kanagawa Prefecture will continue to be promoted while further expanding the social and community networking among the people.



2014 International Summit of Cooperatives held

The 2nd International Summit of Cooperatives was held from 6-9 October 2014 in Quebec-Canada under the co-host of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the Desjardins (Canadian financial cooperative) under the theme "Innovative Power of Cooperatives".

It was attended by 4 representatives from JCCU including Mr. ASADA Katsumi, President and Mr. WADA Toshiaki, Managing Director.

The first summit was held at the same venue in 2012 after the declaration of the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) by the United Nations. Thus this is the second time the summit has been held. It was participated by about 3,000 people from 93 countries including cooperatives, government officials, the business community, international organizations and experts in various fields. The discussions among stakeholders and participants focused on the solutions cooperative and mutual enterprises offer in response to the challenges of food security, the employment crisis, and access to health care and services.

On October 7, 2014, during the opening ceremony of the Summit, Dr. Robert Shiller Nobel Co-Laureate-Economics and Distinguished Professor of Economics Yale University gave a keynote presentation entitled "Directing Business and Finance Towards Developing a Good Society."

It was followed by a round table panel discussion in which Mr. Asada was one of the panelist on the theme "Feeding 9 billion People by 2050". Under this subject, various discussions about food problem worldwide were discussed.

Mr. Asada talked about how Consumer co-ops in Japan put great value on sustainable supply of food and collaborate with Agricultural cooperatives through direct transaction between producers and consumers.

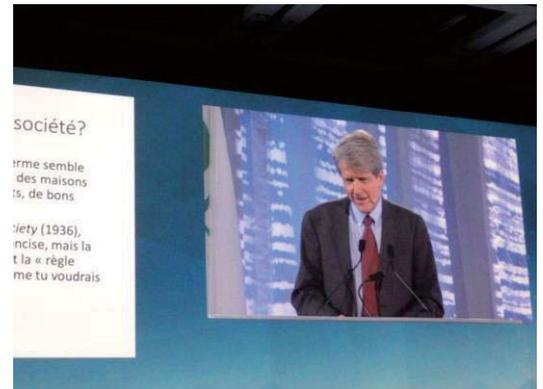
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He emphasized that proper food allocation is crucially important for the solution of food security issues and that food waste reduction must be considered as a matter of importance. Finally, he appealed that Japanese Consumer Co-op will make continuous endeavors to tackle these problems together with its co-op members.



Keynote lecture by Prof. Robert Shiller



Seen at the panel discussion. Mr. Asada (4th from left).

In cooperation with cooperative-related organizations in Japan and overseas, JCCU is committed on various social issues.

Schoolchildren experiencing work as a store manager

On August 17, under the theme "one-day store manager", Okayama Co-op conducted in all its 11 supermarket stores in Okayama Prefecture an event that allowed schoolchildren (28) the opportunity to experience work as a store manager as part of the co-ops effort towards children's growth.

In the morning prior to opening the store to customers the schoolchildren observed the morning meeting led by the store manager and inspected the various divisions in the store including the sales floor and the cash register.

The children were impressed to see the unity between the store manager and the staff in discharging their duties with smiles.

There was a strong feeling expressed by the children that the program has given them the opportunity to learn something which is not taught in the classroom and would remain a good memory for life.



State of sales floor inspection



State of the schoolchildren operating the cash register

Electricity generation through used cooking oil

From October 16, Co-op Net Business Federation had started demonstration experiment of their in-house power generation apparatus installed at the Fresh Food Processing Center at Okegawa, using the waste cooking oil, such as tempura oil, that is collected from their stores.

After processing the waste cooking oil to bio diesel fuel (BDF), it is used as an input to generate electricity using the power generator made by the Yanmar Energy System in Osaka.

The power generation capacity is 25 kilowatts. It is expected to be running 14 hours a day and can cover 100,000 kwh a month of the total electricity requirement of Co-op Net. This corresponds to approximately 330 households power consumption for ordinary homes (300 kW).

Through this business Co-op Net aims at a reduction of about 50-ton carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year.

Co-op Net anticipates that the power generated will be utilized as an auxiliary power in the day time where power demand is concentrated to offset a peak cut which suppresses the peak value of power demand by the organization.

In addition, a power generating equipment together with a heat exchanger is installed that will lead to a reduction of the amount of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) being used in the existing boilers.

With the reduction in consumption of LPG and electricity usage using bio-diesel fuel, it is expected that CO₂ emissions will be reduced by approximately 50 tons per year.

The trial period of the experiment is two years until August 2016.

With the bio-diesel fuel power generation and the installation of solar panels in the logistic facilities, Co-op Net Business Federation is looking forward to expand its renewable energy.

Co-op Net Business Federation is formed by six consumer co-operatives, including Co-op Mirai, in the Kanto area of Japan. Membership is 4.3 million (as of August 20). The amount of total business turnover is 499 billion JPY (fiscal 2013).



Ibaraki Consumer Co-operative receives commendation certificate

On September 16, Ibaraki Consumer Co-operative was evaluated as an organization rendering distinguished services for the employment of people with disabilities by Japan Organization for Employment of the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities and Job Seekers (JEED) that provide work-related advice and introduces possible job opportunities to the disabled.

The commendation certificate was presented to Mr. SATO Yoichi, chairman of the board of directors, Ibaraki Co-op, by Mr. ICHIKAWA Hiroki, head of Ibaraki independent administrative agency.

The award was decided based on the continuous effort the organizations have made to promote work opportunities for disabled for the past five years.

This year three companies in the Ibaraki prefecture including Ibaraki Co-op were awarded.

The disabled person employment rate of Ibaraki Co-op now is 2.5%, exceeding the 2.0% of the legal employment rate imposed by the government.

Moreover, an exchange meeting is held every year

where disabled person and their family are invited for discussion and recommendations as to how to improve working environment to enable the disabled work comfortably.

Ibaraki Co-op will further advance initiatives that will enhance community improvement to ensure that people live in comfort in the communities.



Mr. SATO chairman of the board of directors (L) receiving the commendation certificate from Mr. Ichikawa, head of JEED.

Four Indonesian delegates paid a visit to JCCU

On October 10, 2014, a delegation from the Ministry of Cooperative and SME, Indonesia led by Ms. Ir. Taty Ariati paid a study visit to Japan to learn about consumer co-ops in Japan.

The delegates received briefings on the social issues of Japan, the history and current business overview of co-operatives in Japan and co-ops social initiatives, followed by question-and-answer session at JCCU headquarters CO-OP PLAZA in Tokyo.

Since the delegates were personnel from the division of human resource development they actively asked questions about the training system for co-op staff and member directors.

They were impressed about the spontaneous increase of co-op members and the high loyalty co-op members have for CO-OP brand products.

They later paid a visit to U Co-op Katakura store where they were impressed about the store layout and the line-up of CO-OP products.



The delegates pose for a picture with Mr. ITO Jiro Executive Director Public Relations Dept. of JCCU (R) in front of the statue of KAGAWA Toyohiko, the first president of JCCU.



State of the store visit

News in Brief

Connecting with producers through rice harvesting

Co-op members and their families have several opportunities each year to take part in the various phases of rice cultivation, from planting seedlings in spring to harvesting in fall .

On September 21, Ibaraki Co-op in cooperation with JA Ibaraki Minami and JA Zen-Noh Ibaraki (the National Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Associations), held a "rice-harvesting" exchange meetings with the participation of 89 co-op members consisting of 26 families.

This exchange meeting is an initiative to promote food education through rice production while valuing the connection with the production center. This is the third time the event has been organized this year.

While receiving advice from JA staff the participants worked side by side with them cropping the paddies in their own hands with great care.

After the harvesting, participants joined the farming community for a fresh-cooked rice balls made from the new rice with delicious pork miso soup and vegetables.

Participants were particularly happy with the

opportunity for interaction and getting the experience of rice harvesting.



Scene of the harvesting



Participants pose for a group photo

Comprehensive agreement on cooperation between Co-op Mirai and Saitama Prefecture

Consumer Co-operatives nationwide have been demonstrating their social commitment through signing various agreements with the local governments.

On September 24, at the Saitama City Hall, a framework agreement on the cooperation between Co-op Mirai and Saitama prefecture was concluded. The memorandum was exchanged between the vice-president of Co-op Mirai, Mr. SATO Toshiaki and Mr. SHIMIZU Hayato, Mayor of Saitama.

The content of the agreement consists of nine items in which Co-op Mirai will strengthen cooperation with the city to advance. They include, "child care support," "children and youth development", "elderly support", "support for persons with disabilities", "health promotion and nutrition education", "sports, culture and arts promotion", "tourism promotion", safety and security of local communities", "disaster

preparedness and environmental protection" and the improvement of "civil service".

In Co-op Mirai, to contribute to the creation of an affluent community, "local government visit" is carried out every year to have friendly talk with the authorities to promote measures for possible cooperation.



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