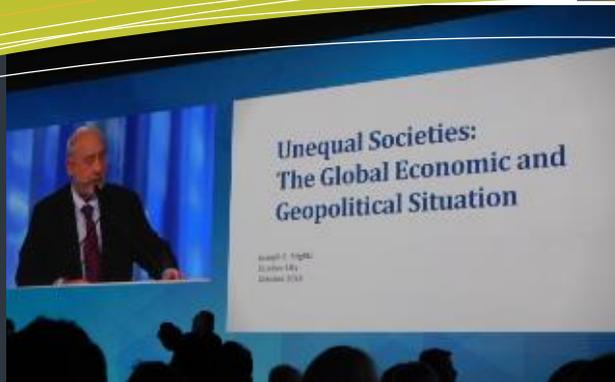


Kumamoto Earthquake Relief-Fund

On October 17, 2016 JCCU presented Co-op Nationwide's donation of 231 million JPY as Earthquake Relief Fund to Kumamoto Prefecture. Adding this amount to the previous donations made by July 2016, a total amount of 1,071 million JPY has been donated to Kumamoto Prefecture.

The presentation was made by Mr. YOSHINAGA Akira the Chairperson of the Kumamoto Consumer Co-operative Union and the Vice President of JCCU Ms. ARAI Chitose to the Governor of the prefecture, Mr. KABASHIMA Ikuo on behalf of Kumamoto Prefectural Government. The donation will continue until October 31, 2016 and the final aggregate amount will be transferred at a later date to Kumamoto Prefecture.

During the ceremony Mr. Kabashima expressed his gratitude towards the donation, the timely dispatch of staff volunteers to assist the victims and the relief supplies. He also mentioned that the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction have a long way to go, but with the continuing support from co-ops nationwide relief will be brought to the victims as well as the people in the prefecture.



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2016 International Summit of Co-operatives Held

The 3rd International Summit of Cooperatives was held from 11-13 October 2016 in Quebec City Convention Centre Canada under the co-host of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the Desjardins (Canadian financial cooperative) under the theme "COOPERATIVES: THE POWER TO ACT".

It was participated by about 3,000 people from 115 countries including cooperatives, government officials, the business community, international organizations and experts in various fields.

The discussions among stakeholders and participants focused on the challenges facing co-operatives and the mutuals, including the promotion of women and the youth participation and employment issues.

On October 11, the first day of the summit, a keynote speech was given by Nobel Laureate in Economics Joseph Stiglitz, a Professor of Columbia University, under the title "Inequalities: The Global Economic and Geopolitical situation."

On October 12, sectoral meetings were held including a panel discussion on wholesale and

retail business under the title; "Increasing Our Capacity to Act on Our Competitiveness," in which the Vice President of JCCU, Mr. HONDA Eiichi took part as a panelist.

Mr. Honda gave a case example of the home delivery business peculiar to the Japanese Consumer Co-operatives regarding the sales method and the way of communication with the members are done using the omni-channel which is an internet platform of Co-op Kobe.



JCCU extends support to WFP project in Ghana

JCCU and its member Co-ops in cooperation with the Japan Association for the World Food Program (JAWFP) launched the "CO-OP × Red Cup campaign" in 2014 to extend support to the "School Feeding Program" in the Republic of Ghana for a period of 3 years ending 2016.

In this campaign one yen from the sale of target CO-OP products is donated to WFP for the WFP School Feeding program.

This year's campaign was executed from October 1 to November 20. In 2014 and 2015 the campaign realized an amount of 2.52 million JPY and 3.86 million JPY respectively. The 2015 amount was estimated to support the yearly meal supply of about 773 children.

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

Consumer Co-ops childcare salon activities

Consumer co-ops offer childcare salon activities as part of their social initiatives by running salon for parents and children usually supervised by voluntary members with parenting skills.

On April 2015, a new support system was enforced in addition to the existing salon activity by 58 co-ops nationwide.

So far the childcare salon activities have received overwhelming recognition with actual figures showing that since 2007 (eight consecutive years), there have been an increase in parent-child participation and the number of places the activity had been held for 58 co-ops nationwide.

Responding to children's poverty and isolation JCCU and 26 member co-ops are organizing "food bank" and "children's cafeteria" activities as a means to provide a place for children to spend time together by engaging in activities such as cooking, eating and playing games.

In the fiscal 2015, 58 co-ops implemented the "child-rearing salon" activity with seven of them carrying out the new support system that were commissioned by the local government as the "local child care support project".

The activities were held in 527 places (previous year 111.4%), participated by 156,366 parent-child (same as previous year 102.4%).

However, there was a slight decrease in the number of staff to run the activities and this becomes the future challenge.

JCCU places importance to children's happy future and will continue to offer child-rearing support through the cooperation of its member co-ops.

"CO-OP special blend coffee bag" new release

JCCU released a new "CO-OP special blend coffee bag" on November 1, 2016 using Arabica beans produced in a 100 percent Rainforest Alliance Certified farms.

Rainforest Alliance Certified™ farms produce coffee under rigid guidelines ensuring biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods and human wellbeing, natural resource conservation and effective planning and farm management systems.

As part of JCCU's social policy of "contributing to society through its products" it has been actively promoting the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly products.

"CO-OP special blend coffee bag" is a blend of beans from the Brazil Monte Alegre, Colombia and Guatemala.

It has features of fruity taste with a sweet and gorgeous acidity. Two types are available; 8 and 40 servings in a bag and box respectively.

The Rainforest Alliance works with coffee farmers to improve their livelihoods and the health and well-being of their communities.

Using the product will spread the awareness about the efforts of the Rainforest Alliance.



CO-OP special blend coffee bag

JCCU received a letter of appreciation from Japan Hidankyo during a ceremony to celebrate 60th anniversary

The Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) on October 12, held a reception in the Tokyo Grand Hotel to celebrate the 60th anniversary of its founding.

A letter of appreciation was presented to 12 organizations including JCCU, the Japan Seinendan Council, National Federation of Regional Women's Organization and 20 individuals for the support they have rendered to Nihon Hidankyo for many years of their movement.

Japan Hidankyo was formed in Nagasaki on August 10, 1956, 11 years after the bombings by a group of victims of the Hiroshima and the Nagasaki called Hibakusha who gathered at the 2nd World Conference against A and H Bombs in Nagasaki. It is a national organization of the atomic bomb survivors.

Since their formation, they had requested for the enactment of "Hibakusha Relief Act" which is an Act on support for the atomic bomb survivors, dispatch of delegation to the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, taken part in NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference.

JCCU and Co-op nationwide have been working in conjunction with Hidankyo in a call for creating a treaty to ban nuclear weapons by expressing members wish through signature activities as well as the dispatch of co-op delegates to the review conference of the parties to the treaty on the non- proliferation of nuclear weapons in the US.

Mr. WADA Toshiaki, Managing Director of JCCU also thanked Japan Hidankyo for the letter of appreciation and expressed JCCU's continuing effort towards their movement.



Letter of appreciation from the Japan Hidankyo

Miyagi Co-op opens first "Co-op restaurant"

Miyagi Co-op has started a first restaurant business which started operation on October 21, 2016 in Sendai. The official name of the restaurant is "Bistro lounge Costeria" and the business hours is from 11am to 11pm.

The shop area is approximately 200 square meters (kitchen + audience) with 82 seats. As cooking ingredients, the restaurant will rely on Miyagi Co-op's original "Sanchoke (the connection between producers and consumers) Megumino products" produced based on Miyagi Co-op's specification and the products of "Cocon-Tohoku," a brand supporting reconstruction of industries in Tohoku, made in the disaster area of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The lunch menu is basically western-style and Japanese-style sing salad and fish or meat. It changes ingredients and cuisine depending on the four changing seasons in Japan, thus providing customers a feeling of seasonal changes.

In the evening, banquet course menu will be available with liquor of Cocon-Tohoku brand.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, local businesses in the Tohoku area became seriously affected. Miyagi Co-op aims to expand the market of food products and revive the damaged factories as part of its effort to regenerate the economy of the Tohoku area hence the opening of the restaurant.

A subsidiary of Miyagi Co-op, "Co-op General Service Co., Ltd. will operate the business. Facilities at the store includes a simple mini stage, audio equipment and a screen which can be used for occasional entertainments in response to the request in such banquet.

ビストロレストラン
Costeria

Renewable energy production area tours

On September 26 2016, thirty-five members of Co-op Kobe took a tour of Nara Co-op Yoshino solar power plant to share awareness with the way people relate to the future electricity and the concept of renewable energy.

The area visited by the members is also unique for purified sterile natural water springs that serve as mineral water supply to co-op members through the home delivery business.

At the site 3,472 sheets of solar panel have been arranged and the expected annual amount of power generation is about 792.836kWh, which is equivalent to the yearly electricity consumption of about 226 households.

The Nara Prefecture Higashi Yoshino area has been receiving electricity from a hydroelectric power project until it was abolished due to aging in 1963.

Currently depopulation has become a serious challenge in the area and for the purpose of vitalization, through the participation of the local Nara Co-op the hydroelectric power generation business is being revived for the first time in half a century.

The project will help promote regional development, raise awareness of global warming prevention and enhance the principal autonomy consciousness.

The tour helped participants deepen their understanding of the power generation, think about renewable energy and finally expressed their feeling of satisfaction for the opportunity offered them by Nara Co-op to see the site of a renewable energy production which is hard to inspect by the ordinary person.



Participants pose for a group picture after the tour

Co-op committee factory bus tour (Yayoi Sunfoods Nagaoka factory)

The Joetsu area Committee of Co-op Niigata organized a tour to Yayoi Sunfoods Nagaoka factory on September 26 2016. It was attended by 26 people.

Participants received warm greetings from employees of the factory and after listening to the factory's overview they changed to a touring outfit and proceeded to the production line.

The outfit has an IC chip in it to be checked at the entrance of the production line, followed by hand-washing and air shower area to prevent contamination.

Participants expressed their impressiveness on the thoroughness with respect to safety and security. They observed the lines that make hamburger and dumplings and also mince cutlets and spring rolls.

They as well enjoyed food tasting of about 12 dishes that made the tour an exciting one. By touring the factory, the committee members reaffirmed how safe and secured co-op products are.



Scene of food tasting

Co-op Gunma took part in Prefectural disaster drill

On September 3, the 2016 "Gunma Prefecture comprehensive disaster prevention training" was held in Tatebayashi Youth Square.

With the assumed occurrence of a large-scale earthquake of Magnitude 8.1 and seismic intensity 7 and also flood damage due to heavy rain caused by a strong typhoon, disaster drill was organized which was participated by one thousand people from 108 organizations including Gunma Consumers' Co-operative Union.

Participants confirmed the cooperation of rescue procedures by each institution and was watched by 3 thousand citizens.

The Gunma Consumers' Co-operative Union, on the basis of their agreement with the local government to supply "emergency relief goods in event of a large scale disaster", conducted a drill in respect of relief material assortment, transport and distribution.

8 staff from Co-op Gunma, Pal system Gunma, Yotsuba Co-op and the prefectural union took part in the drill using three home delivery trucks.



News in Brief

Social Initiatives

- On September 30 2016, JCCU was certified as an "Eruboshi" company on the basis of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The "Eruboshi" company certification is a recognition system established along with the enforcement of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace on April 1, 2016 in recognition of its effort to promote the active involvement of female employees. "Eruboshi" company certification has 3 classes based on the number of items which bear the criteria and JCCU obtained the highest class certification.

Promoting active involvement of female employees in business is one of JCCU's important management strategies, and JCCU is supporting these efforts through various measures such as the support for achieving a satisfying work-life balance and introduction of programs to encourage employees to work vibrantly and positively following maternity and childcare leave.

Policy Recommendation

- On October 17, 2016, JCCU submitted two opinions "the decommissioning costs of nuclear power generation" and "the compensation for nuclear damage" to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Japan Atomic Energy Commission respectively. The decommissioning of nuclear power plants is currently gaining increased momentum in Japan after the Fukushima nuclear power accident. Presently two public financial burden plans are considered in relation to the nuclear power generation by a special committee formed by the policy subcommittee of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Japan Atomic Energy Commission. The opinion states that in case of a nuclear accident the clean-up of a nuclear power is extremely costly, adding it to the cost of electricity in an obscured way poses a serious burden to consumers. It is therefore suggested that the decommissioning costs be borne by the power producers in the future and that the compensation to the nuclear power accident, should inflict unlimited liability to businesses that caused the accident.

Joint meeting between the Local Government and the Co-ops in Kinki Area Held

On August 29, Co-op officials in the Kinki area and the Local Government held a joint meeting at the Hyogo Prefecture Citizens' Hall on the theme "Community Development in which citizens can live in with the sense of security". It was participated by Mr. HONMA Takashi from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare who expressed his appreciation to the rapid and ad hoc support to the Kumamoto earthquake by consumer co-ops.

He also mentioned that he expects Co-op to continue to demonstrate their role as organization responsible for safety networking in the Japanese society where there is acceleration of demographic aging.

Taken turns, Professor WAKABAYASHI Yasunaga, President and Professor of Graduate School of Management, Kyoto University gave a special report with the title "Community initiative in 2050 super-aged society". He stated that with the significant changes in the human relations prevailing in the consumption society and the

family, it is necessary to create a new value of co-op."

He therefore suggested how co-op should be in the future by proposing a business model (House of Gathering) that could support the day-to-day life in the community by the bond created by healthy elderly.

Other topics discussed include "the efforts of consumer education of the University Co-op", "the electric power industry of the Co-op" followed by exchanges in questions and opinions.



Co-op Plaza
3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku
Tokyo, Japan 150-8913
<http://jccu.coop/eng/>
email:kokusai@jccu.coop

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