

## Fukushima Children's Recreation Project

JCCU in every summer, cooperates with the Fukushima Prefecture Consumers' Co-operative Union to organize a program under the theme "Fukushima Children's Recreation Project" for children who live in Fukushima Prefecture.

The project offers recreation for children and their parents, enabling them to spend weekends and school holidays in areas remote from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.

The Fukushima Children's Recreation Project started in 2011 as a joint program led by the Fukushima Consumers' Co-operative Union in cooperation with co-ops nationwide, the Fukushima Committee for UNICEF and the Disaster Recovery Research Institute of Fukushima University.

This summer the program is being held at 11 locations nationwide from July 21 to August 22, 2017. Since the start of this program 81,133 people including children and their parents have participated. (until March 2017). The project is mainly funded through donation from Japan Committee for UNICEF, Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union and its member co-ops.



(L) Activities in Seto Inland Sea and Yo Island (in Kagawa Prefecture). (R) Nature experience in the forest (in Toyama Pref.)



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## International Day of Co-operative held in Tokyo

The International Day of Co-operatives is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement observed on the first Saturday of July each year.

Among others, the day is set to promote peace and to increase awareness on co-operatives, as well as strengthen and extend partnerships between the international co-operative movement and other related organizations.

The slogan for 2017 International Day of Co-operatives was "Co-operatives ensure no one is left behind".

To celebrate this international anniversary, Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC) and Cooperatives Japan held the 95th International Day of Co-operatives Forum on July 7 in Tokyo.

About 450 participants consisting of co-operative staff and members nationwide, academics and the press attended the rally.

The first keynote lecture was given by Mr. INABA Masaki, Board Chair of Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs on the theme, "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Expectations for Cooperatives – for the next generation in Japan and all over the World".

He mentioned that in order to realize the SDGs, the power of the citizen sector is necessary, and expectations are raised about how NGOs, NPOs, cooperatives, etc. will make a new alliance.

The second keynote lecture was about the pioneering practice of Toyohiko Kagawa on the theme "Legacy of Kagawa Toyohiko - Love · Cooperation · Future - Learning from the Pioneer of Sustainability" by Mr. SUGIURA Hidenori Deputy Director of Kagawa Archives and Resource Center.

The lecturer reported the relationship between Kagawa's efforts and the SDGs.

Subsequently, a panel discussion was held with the theme "From Toyohiko Kagawa to SDGs".

In addition, opinions were exchanged on what kind of initiatives, Cooperatives as a mainstay of the SDGs, would like to advance and expand the network leading to the achievement of the SDGs.



Mr. INABA, Board Chair, Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs



Mr. SUGIURA, Deputy Director, Kagawa Archives and Resource Center

## Nara Consumers' Co-operative Union Held Co-op Board Members Exchange Meeting

On July 10, 2017, an exchange meeting for 37 Co-op Board members were organized by Nara Consumers' Co-operative Union to provide an opportunity for them to reconsider the value of co-op and co-operative movement in general.

This is the seventh time the meeting was held. Member co-ops of Nara Consumers' Co-operative Union formed an executive committee for the meeting.

Dr. TAKASHI Sugimoto, Professor at the Kansai University Faculty of Commerce was invited as the speaker. He spoke on the title "Thinking about what Co-op is and its social role" to the board members some of which were newly appointed.

Under this he mentioned the fact that many people do not know that cooperative is a non-profit organization while stressing the role required by co-op as stated in the co-operative principles.

This time board directors from 3 co-ops (Co-op Shizenha Nara, Nara Co-op and Nara health and welfare co-op) together with co-op staff actively participated in the meeting.

The second half was a workshop in which participants were divided into groups, sharing their impressions, the advantages of co-op in their personal lives and the community as a whole.

The board members reaffirmed their continuing effort to promote activities that would enhance the development of the social economy in the region.



## JCCU Presents Relief Money to Fukuoka Prefecture

In July, heavy rains hit northern Kyushu in Japan causing extensive damage. JCCU and its member co-ops granted a sum of money as a gift from their reserve fund for disaster recovery to show their sympathy.

On July 21, Mr. KIKUYA Sounori, Managing Director of Fukuoka Consumers' Co-operative Union and Mr. OKADE Youji, Office Manager of JCCU Kyushu Region Liaison Office paid a visit to Fukuoka prefectural office to present the gift and had a talk with Ms. SHIGEMATSU Noriko Fukuoka, Manager of Department of Human Resource Development and Civic Life, Fukuoka Prefecture.

JCCU and its member co-ops are also raising fund for the disaster to be delivered to Fukuoka Prefecture

Co-op pledged to continue disaster support and to help provide support for rebuilding and regional reconstruction.



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

JCCU in cooperation with member co-ops has established Asian Consumer Co-operative Development Fund for the purpose of developing co-operatives in Asia, facilitating exchanges between co-ops and providing grant assistance for educational training and exchange projects.

Under this fund, training program has been conducted every year since 1995 in Japan for managers of consumer co-ops in the Asia Pacific. This year five co-operative managers from five Asian countries came to Japan on this program from July 17 to July 30 2017, in cooperation with Co-opdeli Consumers' Co-operative Union and Miyagi Co-op focusing on store business.

The participants were Ms. Maylene Quiroz MALAPITAN, Cebu Mitsumi Multi-purpose Cooperative, Mr. Sandip Pandurang POWAR, Shree Warna Vibhag Sahakari Grahak Mandal Ltd. Mr. Hanafi Bin BASIRAN, Koperasi Hasil Dalam Negeri Malaysia Berhad, Mr. PARK Seong Cheol, Dure Consumers Co-operative Federation and Mr. Bilguun BOLDSUKH, Mongolian Neighbour Cooperative.

In this program, through lectures, store training and facility tours, participants were able to learn and understand consumer co-op business in Japan and how the business and activities contribute to the improvement of the community and the society as a whole.

In terms of management issues, participants also learned the productivity improvement of store business, store policies and product development taking into consideration competition, mechanisms to reflect the voice of co-op members in business and activities, staff education and networking with producers.

At Co-opdeli, as part of the facility tour, participants visited housing for elderly with home-care services provided to learn about welfare

business of consumer co-ops.

In Miyagi Co-op, participants took tour of stores and learned about the actual store management practices, staff education, the organization structure of member activities, the home delivery business/logistics mechanism etc.

They also took a tour of the Miyagi Co-op Data Archives of the Great East Japan Earthquake to learn about the efforts of the Co-op during the disaster and the situation of the recovery exercise.

On the final day of the training, participants gave reports and future action plans, and what they intend implementing upon return to their home countries.



## Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign

At the call of JCCU, efforts are being spread among consumer co-ops nationwide joining the Hibakusha Appeal signature campaign calling for an international treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Hibakusha Appeal is addressed from April 2016.

The Japan Promotion Committee for the Hibakusha Appeal takes the initiative, in which a total of 40 citizen groups participate in response to a call from nine A-bomb survivors.

The signatures literally convey the feelings of Japanese citizens towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, and intends to be submitted annually until the UN General Assembly to be held in the fall of 2020.

JCCU agrees with the spirit and has participated in the committee from 2016.

JCCU also worked on signature activities in cooperation with consumer co-ops nationwide and received a total of 205,306 signatures from 29 co-ops as of June 2.

Together with this number of signatures a total number of signature of each group gathered this time totaled 2,963,889 and was submitted at the United Nation Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from June 15 to July 7.



Submitting signature to the chairperson of the conference

Photo provided by The Japan Promotion Committee for the Hibakusha Appeal

## News in Brief

### JCCU Releases Eco Mark Co-op Products

From this August, JCCU is launching 16 items sequentially consisting of CO-OP Original Blend Regular Coffee, CO-OP laundry detergent Sefter-E, which are all certified by Eco Mark using recycled plastics and plant-derived plastics as packaging materials.

Currently, it is said that containers and packaging waste accounts for about 54.7% (volume ratio) of garbage discharged from households in Japan, and its reduction is a social issue. Reducing fossil resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions is an urgent issue for realizing a sustainable society.

In June 2016, the Eco Mark certification criteria were revised, and the certification criteria for "Plastic containers and packaging using plant-derived plastics" was newly released in the category of "Refillable Containers / Resource Type Containers", and the regeneration Standards were reorganized as "Plastic containers and packaging using recycled plastics" so that it can be applied also to laminated products.

The revision aims to promote 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) of plastic containers and packaging for effective use of resources, and to promote the use of containers and packaging made from biomass resources such as plants.

The 16 items are the first Eco mark certified products of JCCU after the revision. Recycled plastics made from used PET bottles and plant-derived plastics such as by-products when sugar cane is refined are used as part of raw materials of the package.

JCCU is planning to expand the adoption of package using recycled plastics and plant-derived plastics to retort pouch products such as curry to reduce the use of petroleum-derived resources CO2 emissions in the future.

JCCU regards environmental issues as the fundamental challenges of mankind and will work on the development and dissemination of environmentally friendly products to build a sustainable society.



### Co-op Ishikawa: Food safety quiz

Co-op Ishikawa Eastern Regional Council held food safety quiz for parents and children on July 17, 2017.

16 adults and 22 children from 3 to 11 years old participated and learned basic knowledge on food safety in quiz format, such as difference between expiry date for product consumption and best-before date.

They also carried out an experiment of sensory of a fruit flavored soft drink with no label.

Co-op Ishikawa will continue to offer opportunities to its members to learn about food safety and security.



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