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JCCU Releases Business Summary

JCCU summarizes October 2016 business turnover of 65 community-based co-ops nationwide operating stores and home delivery service.

For 19 consecutive months the turnover for the home delivery had exceeded the previous year. The store business also showed the same tendency until June and decreased in July, August and September due to bad weather condition as a result of the severe typhoons experienced in those months. However, it rose again in October for the first time in three months.

The total turnover in October is 209.29 billion JPY, 0.3% lower than the same month last year. This is due to the fact that the number of business days is one day less than last year.

The store and the home delivery turnovers had a marginal increase of 1.3% and 0.6% respectively taking the difference of the number of business days described above into the calculation. Agricultural products and prepared dishes were strong backbone of the sales.

The amount of the home delivery sales was 129.83 billion JPY accounting for about 62% of the total turnover of the 65 community-based co-ops. The store turnover was 74.76 billion JPY accounting for 35.7% of the total turnover.

The cumulative growths for the 7 month period from April 2016 to October 2016 show a year-on-year increase of 1.2%, 0.4% and 1.3% respectively for the total turnover, the store turnover and the home delivery turnover.

The ICA-AP Forum and Regional Assembly Held in New Delhi, India

From 15th to 19th November 2016, in New Delhi, the 12th International Cooperative Alliance Asia-Pacific (ICA-AP) Regional Assembly and the 9th Cooperative Forum together with related meetings were held.

It was participated by about 600 cooperators from the Asia Pacific Region.

On the first day of the meeting, following a welcome greeting by Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the co-operative forum was held under the theme "Cooperatives: The Power to Act for a Sustainable Future".

Reports were made by international organizations, government officials and co-operative organizations. Question and Answers were held to deepen understanding of the discussion.

Approximately 40 people including observers participated in the women's committee meeting held on November 15 which centered on presentation of Activity report for the fiscal 2016 and 2017 Activity proposal.

The reports included the "Tagaytay + 20" held in the Philippines in February, the "Cooperative and Women Forum" held in South Korea in September followed by exchange of opinion on a survey conducted regarding the situation of women's activities in the cooperatives in the ICA-AP Region.

At the Regional General Assembly Meeting, reports on 2014 and 2015 financial settlements and 2016 budget were made, as well as proposal

and approval of the ICA-AP Strategic Plan for the period 2017 to 2020 .

The election of regional board members was held in the Regional Assembly and JCCU's Vice President Ms. ARAI Chitose was elected as ICA-AP Vice President.

In her speech, Ms. Arai said that she participated in co-operative activities as a member, then became a director. She stated further that she put a strenuous effort to realize the demands of members, and wanted to support active women's participation in the co-op society.

Also Ms. SHINBO Masako was reelected as the chairperson of the ICA - AP Women 's Committee to continue from the previous term.

JCCU will continue to contribute to the development of co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific region.



Japanese participants in the ICA-AP General Assembly

JCCU took part in the FSC Japan Seminar

JCCU has been promoting the development of environmentally friendly products that have received the Forest Stewardship Council FSC® certification. As a holder of FSC certificate, it participated in the FSC Japan seminar held on November 22, 2016.

FSC certification ensures that products come from well managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

Consumers who are interested in sustainable consumption are able to indirectly support the world's forest conservation by buying products with the FSC mark.

JCCU's paper pack drinks such as "CO·OP mix carrot", tissue products and some other products are certified with FSC.

In this seminar, the case examples of companies and organizations regarding the actual procurement of FSC certified products and panel discussion were held.

JCCU's initiatives for FSC Certification Promotion through the home delivery and store outlets were introduced and also took part as one of the panelist, given its opinion on FSC product procurement.

At the venue, "CO·OP mix carrot" which is FSC certified product was distributed and introduced to visitors.

The demand of FSC certification have been increased in recent times since it acquisition confirms that the business is not risking environmental and social norms.



Scene of the panel discussion

JCCU submits opinion to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Promotion Headquarters

JCCU submits opinion concerning the "Guideline for SDGs Implementation" to the Sustainable Development Goals Promotion Headquarters responsible for implementing sustainable development objectives .

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015 aim to realize a society "which does not leave anyone alone" towards 2030, and addresses a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues.

As a guideline for promoting this in Japan, the Guideline for SDGs Implementation (outline) has been summarized, and now opened to public comments.

The Japanese consumer co-ops contribute to the world and the Japanese society by participating in community development that aims at "creating a more human lifestyle and sustainable society through the concerted efforts of individual citizens which is mentioned in the Ideal of Japanese Co-operative Movement for the 21st century by JCCU and its member co-ops.

Yamagata Consumers' Co-op Union held 2016 Co-op School

On October 24, Yamagata Consumers' Co-operative Union held the 2016 "Co-op School" at the Yamagata International Hotel.

Mr. SUGAI Michinari Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union gave an opening greetings followed by a keynote lecture by Professor KITAGAWA Taichi of Fukui Prefectural University entitled "History, Philosophy and Social Mission of Co-operatives ". It was participated by 44 co-operators including Co-op members, executives and staff from the co-ops in the Yamagata prefecture.

Professor Kitagawa in his lecture made reference to the importance of the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) by explaining that co-operatives are expected to play a major role in solving global problems such as food security and hunger being suffered by more than 900 million worldwide.

In addition, Professor Kitagawa referred to the Rochdale Pioneers movement, established under the social and economic background of Britain in the second half of the 18th century. He mentioned that although the movement underlines "common interest" particularly protecting the lives of the members, some of the principles were "to improve the community in which the members live, through their business and activities". He stated that this characteristic of co-operatives is not found in general corporations. He also said that in business even if a co-operative wins alone, the community will not get better therefore, emphasized that

JCCU, on behalf of its member co-ops, on November 1, 2016 submitted an opinion on "Guideline for SDGs Implementation (outline) to the SDGs Promotion Headquarters.

The contents of the opinion reads:

- JCCU hopes that the Government will promote the development objectives while disclosing information to citizens by formulating specific issues and action plans for each theme of SDGs
- JCCU expects the Government to maintain and improve the framework to promote cooperation with stakeholders.
- The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) has set sustainable society as one of its core themes in its 2020 vision "Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade", therefore, JCCU suggests that the Government specifies co-operatives as stakeholders to work together with for the achievement of the SDGs.

participating and improving community will develop co-operatives.

However, he stressed that "co-operatives work for the sustainable development of the community through policy approved by the members ".

He finally raised five issues as expectations from co-operatives, namely; "visualization" of co-operatives that protects local resources (including tradition and culture) and making connections in local communities, nurturing agriculture and forestry and food culture for the next generation, learning activities and exchanges among members, fostering business partnerships such as logistics systems and product development and reaching out to people other than co-operatives.

Finally, Mr. ABE Yoshiharu Executive Director made a closing remarks to close the event.



Co-op Festival Held in Chiba

The Chiba Prefectural Co-operative Promotion Council made up of JA Group, the Fisheries Co-op, the Forestry Co-op and the Consumer Co-ops in Chiba Prefecture, on November 6, held the 27th Chiba Prefecture Co-operative Festival in collaboration with NHK Chiba Broadcasting Bureau.

It was well attended by approximately 25,000 people including parents and children.

The purpose of the festival was to provide a platform of exchanges between the various co-op movements in the prefecture and to appeal or raise the visibility of co-operatives to the prefectural people. It was held for the first time in 1988.

This time, apart from the co-op groups, Chiba Workers Welfare Council and the UNICEF Association of Chiba Prefecture also participated in the exhibition.

Several events took place in the booths set up by the participating organizations such as the sale of fruits and vegetables and other products produced in the prefecture to appeal the safety, reliability and the value of agricultural products from the Chiba Prefecture. In some booths food tasting was held.

Part of the sales proceeds would be donated to the International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and part be used for the recovery of the Kumamoto earthquake.

In some booths, through quizzes, participants deepened their understanding of co-op philosophy and food.



News in Brief

Final Result of Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Fund

Soon after the Kumamoto Earthquake JCCU called on its member co-ops to organize fund-raising to support the victims and help with the reconstruction exercise. The period for the fund-raising was set to April 15 to October 31, 2016. Within this period, co-op members from 122 consumer co-ops and business federations responded generously towards the fund-raising realizing a total amount of 1.09 billion JPY.

Out of these 1.053 billion JPY has been donated to Kumamoto Prefecture and 20 million JPY to Oita Prefecture.

The remaining amount was used to support the activities jointly organized by JCCU and the Kumamoto Consumers Co-operative Union such as the moving to temporary housing, support for soup-run, the effort of the "Co-op Disaster Relief Center" and the support of the affected

elderly and people with disabilities.

On October 17, 2016 the second aggregate amount was presented to Kumamoto Prefecture.

JCCU and co-op members nationwide wish the victims of the disaster the earliest recovery.



Seikatsu Club took part in the "Global Social Economic Forum" in Montreal

The "Global Socio-Economic Council (Gsef)" was held in Montreal, Canada from September 7th to 9th 2016.

Six people from Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative participated with about 1,500 people from 330 cities in 62 countries. The event took place over three days with active discussions and exchanges.

Social issues were once expected to be solved by the power of politicians and the central government (country) or by the adjustment function of the market economy, but it has come to be widely recognized that the aforementioned powers cannot solve economic disparity and poverty instead we need worldwide solidarity by citizens and nonprofit organizations to regenerate the society and the economy.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, said, "Activities at the local level are important for promoting social solidarity economy".

In the workshop held on 7th and 8th, many cases of activities in various parts of the world including Canada, France, Italy and Africa were reported.

Ms. UENO Shinobu, the Chairperson of Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative Yamanashi who participated in the forum talks about her impression as follows:

"I participated in the international conference for the first time but I was deeply aware that the problems of disparities and poverty that are happening in Japan are common problems in other parts of the world.

I also think that the efforts of Japanese workers collectives are actual examples of "social solidarity economy". There needs to be more intermediary organizations to sustain and develop these activities. It is a common global challenge.

If citizen activities such as workers collectives and NPOs develop by collaborating with each other and influence local governments and national policies, the situation could be changed."

Gsef 2016 Montreal Declaration was adopted by participants on the last day of September 9 2016.



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