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JCCU Supports Para Cross-Country Skiing Japan Team

Since 2006, JCCU has been supporting the "Para Cross-Country Skiing Japan team" as a team sponsor.

In addition, JCCU co-sponsored with Co-op Sapporo and Okayama Co-op the IPC (International Paralympic Committee) Nordic Skiing World Cup Sapporo-Japan held from March 18 to 22 2017 as an official partner of the tournament.

On April 28, 2017 Mr. ARAI Hideki, Head coach of Japan Paralympic National Team of Nordic Skiing and in his capacity as the General Secretary of the organizing committee of the 2016-17 IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup Sapporo paid a courtesy visit to JCCU and reported on the competition.

In addition, Mr. ARAI gratefully acknowledged the voluntary support offered by Co-op Sapporo, Okayama Co-op and JCCU as an official partner of the event and also for the provision of foodstuffs at the food corner and the volunteering work on feeding.

As a souvenir, Mr. ARAI presented the team's bib with autographs of the team's players to WADA Toshiaki (left) the Managing Director of JCCU .



JCCU Received Award on Food Education Practice

JCCU received the "Japanese Society of *Shokuiku* (Food Education) Practice Award" on food education activities of co-ops nationwide. The award ceremony was held at Ehime University (Matsuyama city, Ehime prefecture) on May 13, 2017.

The Japanese Society of Shokuiku promotes academic research on food education and practical dietary education activities.

The society has been awarding prizes to individuals or organizations that have continued food education activities for many years and are recognized as having a remarkable contribution in the area. This time, on behalf of co-ops nationwide JCCU received the first encouragement prize from the society.

WADA Toshiaki the Managing Director of JCCU who participated in the table award ceremony said, "Consumer Co-ops nationwide are promoting various efforts related to food, such as organizing exchanges with producers at the production areas and offering cooking classes. I am very grateful for your appreciation towards the food education activities of co-ops".

JCCU will continue to proactively promote food educational activities with co-op nationwide to disseminate the right information regarding food issues to co-op members and the general public.



Ms. YOSHINAKA Yuki, President of Palsystem – Kanagawa Yume Co-op (left) and WADA Toshiaki, Managing Director of JCCU (right) receiving the certificate of award on behalf of co-op nationwide.

JCCU Releases Business Summary

On April 23, JCCU summarized April 2017 business turnover of 65 community-based retail co-ops nationwide operating stores and home delivery service.

For 25 consecutive months, from 2015 fiscal year, the total turnover of the home delivery service had exceeded the previous year.

In April, the turnover of both the home delivery service and the store business exceeded the previous year by 2.1% with a value of JPY 131.7

billion and 0.6% with a value JPY 75.1 billion respectively.

The component ratio (%) to the total turnover are respectively 59.7% and 34.1%.

Livestock and prepared dishes were good. There was also a week which saw lower customer traffic on a year-on-year basis in April, but it was covered by the rise in the average spending per customer.

Kochi Co-op won the Eco-Super market of the year

On May 10 2017, at the General Assembly of the "Kochi Prefecture Global Warming Prevention Council" Kochi Co-op's Yoshida store was awarded the first place in the contest of "Eco Supermarket of the Year".

Aiming for a low-carbon society that protects and nurtures the rich natural environment in Kochi prefecture, the "Kochi Prefecture Global Warming Prevention Council" was established. The organization honors the global warming prevention initiatives by various organizations, business operators and individuals working on building a low-carbon society.

In autumn 2016, the convention organized the "2016 Supermarket Plastic Shopping Bag Reduction Contest" in which Co-op Yoshida store won the Prefectural Governor's award "Eco Supermarket of the year" having been recognized as the store with the highest decrease in plastic shopping bag in all departments.

During the period of the contest, the average shopping bag declination rate reached 30% of all the customers.

The Kochi Co-op aims to continue efforts this year by encouraging other stores to advance strong initiatives.



JCCU set target for CO2 reduction

JCCU has established the "2030 Environmental Target Review Committee" with experts, and has mainly been studying countermeasures against global warming.

The committee has submitted a report on the level of CO2 reduction targets to the co-op board of directors to consider its adoption by the nationwide consumer co-ops.

In the report, the following five proposals were made as a means to promote global warming countermeasures by the power of cooperation.

1) Individual consumer co-ops formulate "2030 greenhouse gas reduction plan" and start practicing.

The committee had set the following objectives.
Goal for 2030: Reduction of total CO2 emissions by 40% compared to the level at 2013.

Goal for 2050: Reduction of total CO2 emissions by 90% compared to 2013.

2) To ensure thorough energy conservation measures, by reviewing facilities and vehicles from the environmental perspective.

JCCU plans to promote the introduction and improvement of energy-saving equipment systematically, and cooperates with member co-ops nationwide to switch to next-generation vehicles especially for home delivery and logistics.

3) To tackling the development of renewable energy supply by co-ops nationwide.

In order to achieve sustainable development and compatibility of low-carbon society, the following targets have been set in order to promote the development of renewable energy power supply by

co-ops nationwide.

Future targets: Development of renewable power supply of 1 billion kwh (equivalent to 500 MW)

4) To learn with co-op members and spread empathy.

Co-op members and staff will learn about climate change and the current situation of environmental problems, recognize the impact on our living and business, and broaden the empathy for the need for action to prevent further deterioration.

5) To cooperate with the region/community to advance a movement that ensures the creation of a sustainable society.

JCCU will promote the production of local energy by collaboration with local governments and actively strengthen collaboration with co-ops nationwide, NPOs, universities and research institutions.

Today, with the strong sense of crisis that the deterioration of the global environment is impairing the sustainable foundation of society, the world has adopted the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and set out a global action plan in the Paris Agreement.

Realization of a sustainable society is part of the Ideal of Japanese Consumer Co-op movement for the 21st century and co-op has been addressing this issue to demonstrate our role as a key partner for the achievement of SDGs.

JCCU and member co-ops will continue to pursue various initiatives to realize a low-carbon society, a harmonious symbiosis society, and a recycling-oriented society.

Citizen activity exchange meeting 2017

As part of Co-op Kobe's social contribution, the co-op established a foundation "Co-op Tomoshibi" Volunteer Promotion Foundation" to extend support to organizations in the Hyogo prefecture conducting various volunteer activities.

To promote the foundation's activities a project under the name "Thank you for your kindness-Hyogo project" was also formed in April this year.

On May 17 2017, the foundation organized the "2017 Citizen Activity Exchange Meeting" for the volunteer organizations receiving subsidies from the foundation.

A total of 189 people from 150 voluntary organizations in the Hyogo prefecture took part in the meeting.

At the beginning, Mr. YAMAGUCHI Kazufumi, the president of the foundation gave a letter of thanks to seven companies that have offered support to the Hyogo project.

At the exchange session, presentation of the foundation's activities were given followed by group discussions and exchanges of opinions.

On the day, Co-op Kobe presented an amount of 7.04 million JPY obtained through fund raising activities organized at the stores of the co-op to support the activities of the foundation.

The picture shows Mr. YAMAGUCHI Kenji (R), the Executive Director of Co-op Kobe presenting the donation to Mr. YAMAGUCHI Kazufumi (L).



Co-op Kyushu Business Federation starts recycle business

Co-op Kyushu Business Federation which is made up of eight consumer co-ops in the Kyushu and Okinawa areas has started a recycle business that collects items such as product catalogs from the members' homes in the 4 prefectures in the Kyushu region and collectively recycles them. The recycle items will be sold to papermaking companies after being compressed to a small shape at the processing facility "Tosu Eco-Center" established in Tosu city in April, 2017.

The facility is run by Heart Co-op Saga, a 100% subsidiary of Co-op Saga, which supports employment of persons with disabilities.

Co-op membership in the 4 prefectures Saga, Fukuoka, Oita and Kumamoto stands 820,000. The co-ops collect catalogs, milk cartons, egg packs, product bags etc. at the time of delivery of ordered items to the member's home once a week and return them to the eco-center where they're compressed and sold to paper companies while egg packs etc. are sold to recycling companies. The collected catalogs and milk cartons are remanufactured into CO-OP brand toilet paper.

It is said that by raising efficiency by integrating the recycling that had been tackled by each co-op so far, it can suppress the emission of carbon dioxide by using the truck of the return freight without using a dedicated delivery car for recycling. The first year sale of resources is expected to be 130 million yen, net income is expected to be 60 million yen, and net income is allocated to each cooperative according to the collected weight.



CO-OP boneless mackerel to receive MSC certification

JCCU will switch the "CO-OP boneless mackerel" series using Norwegian mackerel to "MSC certified" product from this June.

MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification is a global system to certify sustainable fishery. Products that meet the requirements are certified with MSC "Eco-label sea food" label.

JCCU considers "consideration for the environment" as well as the "realization of a sustainable society" as a major keyword in its business operation.

As a result, JCCU aggressively develops and spreads MSC certified products to fulfill its mission.

Regarding the popular "CO-OP boneless mackerel" series, JCCU plans to switch all the 21 items. JCCU expects to supply 10 million packs per year.

"CO-OP boneless mackerel" series uses Norwegian mackerel.

The belly bones, middle bones and small bones are removed from the fish to make it easier for small children and elderly people to eat. By using a sauce base for both the two products enjoys a refreshing flavor. Also, since it is frozen in subdivided pack, one could boil and eat the required quantity.

JCCU will continue to actively develop products that are environmentally friendly and disseminate information to members to promote ethical consumption.



Forum to consider collaboration at the time of disaster held

JCCU took part in the "2nd National Forum on Collaboration at Disasters" held on May 26 - 27, 2017.

It was organized by the "Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster" (abbreviated as JVOAD) which is a Nonprofit organization.

JVOAD strives to promote collaboration between stakeholders across regions and fields in order to effectively support activities that provide support to victims in the event of a disaster and to support initiatives to reduce the vulnerability to future disasters.

JCCU also works together with JVOAD as a regular member.

During disaster prevention and reduction activities many stakeholders such as the administrative agencies, enterprises, universities, NPOs etc. offer assistance however, the opportunities to understand each other's organization and its directions to solve the common problem are limited.

The forum was held to provide a platform for "support stakeholders" to gather for the purpose of promoting collaboration at no incidence time in preparation for disasters. The day's event included panel discussions and relay talks in groups and subcommittees.

MIYAJI Takeshi of JCCU participated as a panelist on the 1st day subcommittee under the theme "Assistance for Disaster Victims by Companies, - The Logistics Support at the Time of Disaster and the future".

He reported on Co-op's effort during the Kumamoto Earthquake such as the moving to the temporary housing, support for soup-run and the "Co-op Disaster Relief Center" activities. Also with SASAGAWA Hiroko, Director of Member Relations Division (JCCU) acting as a commentator, she gave an opinion on the importance of cooperation among groups at the time of a disaster.



JCCU subscribes to "COOL CHOICE" movement

JCCU agrees with the national movement "COOL CHOICE" for measures against global warming promoted by the Japanese Government.

"COOL CHOICE" is a means to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in FY 2030 by 26% compared to the FY 2013 level. In order to achieve the goals that the Government of Japan has internationally raised, a national movement has been launched to make every "smart choice" that contributes to global warming countermeasures, such as energy-saving / low-carbon type products, services, actions, etc. JCCU will strive to promote the understanding of the board members, employees and people who visit JCCU office regarding "cool choice" by posting a logo of "COOL CHOICE" on posters announcing Cool Biz.

JCCU will also work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy saving efforts and continue to work on environmental preservation through the dissemination of "COOL CHOICE" now and in the future.

Co-op Fukushima Receives Commendation Award

On May 23, a commendation ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's official residence, for consumer agencies and individual groups working to improve or protect consumer interest. Eleven individuals and 6 organizations were awarded.

Co-op Fukushima which is one of the recipients of the award was honored for providing housekeeping support for elderly households and child rearing staff and also for conducting study sessions for consumers about radioactive substance in food items in Fukushima Prefecture and disseminating information to the citizens in the prefecture.

News in Brief

Policy Recommendation

- On May 16 2017, JCCU submitted an opinion on the "deliberation result (draft) on food health impact assessment related to dexamethasone" to the Food Safety Commission, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan.
The opinion stressed on further enrichment of information regarding the selection of residual markers.
- On May 24 2017, ASADA Katsumi, President of JCCU and the Managing Director, WADA Toshiaki, visited the Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology with a petition related to scholarships.
A system reform of the scholarship was conducted by the Ministry, including the revision of the Act on the Japan Student Services Organization and the introduction of benefit scholarship system from April 2017.
In the petition ASADA paid tribute to the government's efforts and requested further efforts to create a better scholarship system to ease the burden of low-income families having children in schools as a representative voice from co-op members."
The petition requested (1) the execution of the contents described in supplementary resolution by an independent administrative agency. (2) establishing a place for public review of the reform of the scholarship system as a whole, etc..
On the other hand, Mr. YOSHIIE Hiroyuki the Deputy Minister said, "It was very difficult to create the benefit scholarship system this time, however, I also understand well that child rearing is part of life and poses a serious problem. I would like to steadfastly resolve the realization of equal opportunities for education."

Jean-Louis Bancel, President of France Coop FR, visits Japan

On May 25, 2017, Mr. Jean-Louis Bancel (President, Cooperatives Europe, President, Coop FR and also President, Crédit Coopératif) paid a visit to Japan at the courtesy invitation of the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives, (JJC).

There was a day visit of Mr. Bancel to Co-op Mirai to get familiarized with the business situation with the consumer co-operatives in Japan.

Mr. Bancel met with Ms. ARAI Chitose President of Co-op Mirai and Vice President Mr. KOBAYASHI Shinji who explained the outline of Co-op Mirai, exchanged opinions on business collaboration and participation of youth in co-op business.

He later paid a visit to Co-op Mirai Minami Urawa Store, Saitama Day Service Center and Co-op Plaza Urawa.

Mr. Bancel in his comment said "through visiting three different projects and activities, I am very impressed that the Japanese co-ops are responding to diverse needs and that the members are actively working together to create better living".



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