



Office of the President
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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News Headline

ASEAN co-ops benefit from IT

Quezon City -- The "Information Technology for Southeast Asian Co-operatives (it@coops) Project" is implemented from 2004-2007 in cooperatives affiliated with national co-op federations in ASEAN member-countries Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand.

Main implementors are the Asian Women in Co-operative Development Forum (AWCF), a resource center and advocacy body on gender and co-ops in Asia, and the InWEnt (Capacity Building International, Germany), with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The country federations involved are the Forum for Indonesian Co-operatives Movement (FORMASI Indonesia), Indonesia; the Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT), Thailand; and the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), Philippines. More information about the Project is at <http://www.it-coops.net>

A "Regional Forum on it@coops: Empowering Co-operatives through Information Technology" was held November 19-21 in Antipolo City, Philippines, showcasing the results of the project, bringing to fore the increased skills and learning of the co-op staff, leaders, and members on IT that can be applied especially to decision-making and entrepreneurship; improvements in operations of the co-ops involved; and enhanced services of the co-ops to members who, aside from savings and credit facilities, can now rely on their co-ops for improved support for their entrepreneurial efforts through use of different IT applications, including newly established co-op websites and IT-based business development centers (BDCs) of the co-ops.

IT specialists from the co-ops who were trained by the "it@coops Project" were at the Philippines conference, and they were joined on the opening ceremonies by a number of guests including representatives from the Indonesian and German embassies in Manila, and officials from the Philippine government agency Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

Asian co-ops compose two-thirds of the 223 worldwide member-organizations of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), the global body of co-ops, which covers more than cover more than 800 million individuals. Through the years, co-ops have proven to be effective vehicles for poverty-reduction, and the people's empowerment and their achievement of a quality way of life, especially in Asia.

For more information, please contact Ms Angie Valdez, Project Coordinator, AWCF, 227 J.P. Rizal St., Project 4, Quezon City, Philippines, phone (632) 4374420/9137011, awcf@pacific.net.ph. Or, Ms Cecile Abis, AWCF Editor, mobile +639167404496, abis.com@gmail.com.

- by Cecile Abis, AWCF Editor (AWCF)

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