**REPORT**

**THE TWENTY SIXTH MEETING OF**

**THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**

**(26th ACEDAC) BOARD**

1. **May 2019, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**
2. The Twenty Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives (26th ACEDAC) Board was held on 21 May 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Meeting was attended by representatives from governments, agricultural cooperatives, and farmers’ organization of Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives from the ASEAN Farmers’ Organizations Support Programme (AFOSP) – represented by Asian Farmers’ Association and the ACEDAC Secretariat.
3. The Meeting noted the progress report on Strengthening Capacity Building in Agriculture Sector in ASEAN Countries project (CB Project) – Phase 3. AMS also explored opportunity to seek funding from the Project for training for other topics and to also prioritize farmer member of agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations to participate in the training. The completion of CB Project – Phase 3 will be on September 2020. ASEAN Secretariat has been informed by MAFF Japan on the future project as the successor of the CB Project – Phase 3. The new Project is expected to work on the area of food value chain which will involve cooperatives in ASEAN and Japanese companies. The Meeting requested ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the preparation of the new project and send proposal to AMS to allow AMS to provide comments and input to the new project. The Meeting also requested to conduct a workshop in order to discuss the new project proposal that will enable AMS to work on the proposal and ensure the needs of AMS are accommodated in the new project.
4. The Meeting noted the development of food marketing chain system in Thailand which the presentation highlighted the process of marketing chain system cooperatives in Thailand, which is divided into two parts, production and distribution. Thailand has conducted several events such as fair and roadshow, cooperatives network, e-commerce marketing, and agricultural tourism and MICE for agricultural products such as fruits, rice and coffee.The Meeting was informed by Thailand on the cluster system which is divided by the commodities, and a partnership is built by the Government, private sector and bank on the process. The distribution centers, managed by cooperatives, were established in every part of Thailand to send the products. The Meeting was also informed by Thailand on their partnership with e-commerce such as Lazada and Alibaba and their e-commerce such as Co-op click. The Meeting discussed the possibility to invite e-commerce to the Meeting or to arrange a Meeting with e-commerce to promote a partnership between ACEDAC and e-commerce.
5. The Meeting noted the information from Thailand that there is no activity works on the role of women in agricultural cooperatives since the role of women in agricultural cooperatives in Thailand is already active. While in Philippines, the CDA Progress in Gender and Development (GAD) Mainstreaming in the Philippines. CDA has implemented several programs in its effort to enhance women participation through CDA’s GAD Framework which consists of capacity building, technical assistance, and seminars including GAD tools on assessing gender and cooperatives. In Malaysia has also implemented an effort to enhance women participation in farmer organizations through increasing women farmers’ participation which currently amounted around 30%. Malaysia also has built the capacity of women farmers to add the value of their products and also in marketing and product development.
6. The Meeting noted the Exchange Visit of Cooperatives Personnel and Leaders that was held on 24 – 26 October 2018 in Purworejo, Indonesia, with a theme of “Strengthening the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Management of Coconut Value Chain and job creations in rural areas.” Lao PDR will be the host of the upcoming ASEAN Exchange Visit.
7. The Meeting noted the update from Thailand on the development of the ACEDAC website (<http://www.acedac.org>). The Meeting also noted that currently there are five (5) AMS that have linked their website to ACEDAC website namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Thailand encouraged other ACEDAC Members to participate in updating information and to link their website with ACEDAC website by sending the URL to Thailand. The Meeting agreed to promote ACEDAC website and also agreed to enrich the content of the website, for example with the story on farmers, short video on farmers’ life and other relevant success stories. The Meeting requested Thailand to send the login information to AMS in order to update their own ACEDAC website. The Meeting also explored possibility to have special IT staff dedicated for the website training and management.
8. The Meeting was informed that the 8th ACBF was held on 26 – 27 February 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Forum was attended by AMS, development partners, agricultural cooperatives leaders and civil society. The 8th ACBF has also provided a venue to exhibit the products from ASEAN countries during the Meeting. The Meeting was also informed on the Workshop on Guidelines for Establishing Concrete Cooperation among Cooperatives in ASEAN. Thailand also presented the 8th ACBF Declaration and the way forward, in which, among others, to strengthen the role of agricultural cooperatives in the Region as well as to implement the ASEAN Roadmap on Agricultural Cooperatives. The Meeting noted that the 9th ACBF and 10th ACBF will be held in 2020 and 2021 in Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia respectively.
9. The Meeting discussed the need to establish a better communication channel among ACEDAC Members to communicate various matters and development of ACEDAC. The Meeting agreed to form a group in Whatsapp application for ACEDAC Members.
10. The Meeting noted that the 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agriculture Cooperatives (ACEDAC) Board, back to back with the 22nd ASWGAC Meeting, tentatively would be held in June 2020 in the Philippines. The exact date and venue of the Meeting will be informed to AMS in due course through the ASEAN Secretariat. On a rotational basis, Thailand will be the host of the 28th Meeting of the ACEDAC Board, back to back with the 23rd ASWGAC Meeting, prior to SOM-AMAF Meeting in August 2021.