

## **ILO COOP Statement for Seikatsu Cooperative Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

July 1, 2021

Greetings from the Cooperatives Unit of International Labour Office, the ILO. I would like to congratulate the Seikatsu Cooperative consumer Kanagawa on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary working to create a community where people can live humanly and build a lifestyle that protects democratic and peaceful lives.

It is inspiring to see this important philosophy of "self-governance and self-management" of Seikatsu Club has survived and thrived for half a century. I have no doubt these principles will continue to be relevant for the future of our societies.

As you may know ILO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for the world of work issues. It has a mandate of social justice and decent work.

Decent work involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

Central to ILO's mandate is a system of international labour standards. ILO standards have addressed cooperatives since 1947.

ILO activities on cooperative enterprises are guided by the international standard on cooperatives, the ILO Recommendation on the Promotion of Cooperatives, 2002 (No. 193). This Recommendation has proven to be highly relevant for the revival of cooperative enterprises in many parts of the world.

Since its adoption, more than 110 countries have used the Recommendation to support the revision and development of national policies and laws, and it has contributed to a number of regional and subregional uniform model laws.

Since 1920, the Cooperatives Unit of the ILO works on promoting and advancing cooperatives and more recently the wider social and solidarity economy around the world.

This month at ILO COOP we were happy to interview Ms Misako Shinozaki, Chairperson of Seikatsu Club Consumers' Cooperative Kanagawa where she told us about how she got involved.

In June 2022, the ILO's International Labour Conference will discuss an item related to "Social and Solidarity Economy, SSE, for a human-centred future of work". Cooperatives are an important part of SSE. This upcoming discussion at the ILO's international labour conference presents an opportunity to shed light on the growing diversity of enterprise models that are based on values of cooperation, mutualism and solidarity, and which combine social, economic and environmental objectives.

At ILO COOP we wish you a happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I have no doubt in my mind that the Seikatsu Cooperative consumer cooperative will continue to be a critical actor in supporting the expansion of independent and cooperative civil society and cooperative associations.

In solidarity.

Simel Esim

ILO COOP

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