COOPERATIVE INSURANCE IN JAPAN FACT BOOK 2017

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COOPERATIVE INSURANCE IN JAPAN FACT BOOK 2017

This brochure has been compiled to introduce the business result of the major cooperative insurers in Japan for fiscal 2016 and activities of JCIA and its member societies.

Each cooperative engaged in cooperative insurance business offers support to its members who are anxious about various things such as natural disasters, road accidents, illness, and their old age, and gets involved in activities to expand its network of "mutual aid."

Consequently, the main cooperative insurers in fiscal 2016 achieved business results as follows; the number of members: 79 million, the number of insurance policies: 146 million, the amount insured: 1,043 trillion yen, the premium income: 8,242 billion yen, the claims paid: 4,432 billion yen, the total assets: 66,094 billion yen.

The cooperative insurers have been playing a significant role to supplement social security system in Japan by providing a means of mutual help among their members.

The cooperative insurers will endeavor to carry out their social responsibilities in order to meet members' expectations through products that satisfy their needs and prompt claim payments. We appreciate your continued support and understanding.

We hope this brochure will be useful for well understanding about the cooperative insurance and its societies in Japan.

January 2018

Japan Cooperative Insurance Association Incorporated (JCIA)

Cooperative Insurance Business **in Japan**

Cooperatives and Cooperative Insurance Business

(1) About Cooperatives

A cooperative is a non-profit organization established voluntarily by a group of people who desire to improve their lives and carry out various activities.

Anyone who pays membership fee in accordance with the terms and conditions of each organization can become a member. The members of a cooperative are able to take advantage of various services offered by each cooperative and can reflect their own views on the operation. As symbolized by the slogan, "One for all and all for one," cooperatives aim to protect and enrich the lives of their members based on the concept of mutual help.

The services of cooperatives are wide-ranging and related to all aspects of our daily life, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, purchasing, banking, insurance, job creation, traveling, housing, welfare, and medical care.

Cooperatives around the world share the same principles to put these values into practice. Especially, they are internationally expected to serve as one of the organizations to be able to resolve or relieve social problems in each country including unemployment, poverty, and disparity.

(2) About Cooperative Insurance

The cooperative insurance is a mutual aid system where the members share their premium to establish mutual assets, and the funds are paid out at times of unexpected contingencies, to compensate for the financial deficit and stabilize the lives of the members and their family in preparation for various risks that jeopardize our daily life such as the death, hospitalization, house damage or traffic accidents.

Major Cooperative Insurers in Japan

There are various kinds of cooperative insurers in Japan. If we summarize these organizations according to the applicable laws, they can be roughly classified into two categories; "organizations based on special laws*" and "organizations not based on special laws".

Furthermore, "organizations not based on special laws" are separated into "organizations based on cooperative laws" and "organizations based on others".

*"organizations based on special laws" are providing indemnity services for agricultural products and fisheries as a kind of social security measure.

List of Cooperative Insurers According to Applicable Laws

	Applicable Laws	Regulators	(JCIA m	Major Organizations nembers are printed in green color)		
	Agricultural Cooperative Society Law	Ministry of Agriculture,	Zenkyoren & Agricultural Cooperatives in Prefectural and Regional Level ^(*1)			
	Fisheries Cooperative Association Law	Forestry and Fisheries	Kyosuiren & and Regiona	Fisheries Cooperatives in Prefectural al Level ^(*2)		
			Region	CO-OP Kyosairen, Zenkokuseikyoren, Seikyo Zenkyoren Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai ^(*3)		
Cooperative Law	Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare	Industry	Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen, Boeisho Seikyo, Zenkoku Denryoku Seikyoren, Kouun kyosai, Nihon Yusei Group Roudousha Seikyo, Dentsu Kyosai, Shinrin Roren Kyosai, Zentabako Seikyo, Zensuidokyosai, Jichiro Kyosai, Kyosyokuin Kyosai, Zentokuseikyoukumiai, Zenkoku Syuhan Seikyo, Tobacco seikyo, Zenkoku Choson Syokuin Seikyo, Toshiseikyo, Keisatsu Syokuin Seikyo, Zensyokyo		
-			Region/ Industry	Zenrosai, Nihon Saikyosairen		
	Small and Medium- Sized Enterprise Cooperatives Act	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and others	Prefectural a Zenjikyo & A Prefectural a Chusairen & Prefectural a Kokyoren ^(*4) cooperatives	Fire Insurance Cooperatives in and Regional Level Automobile Insurance Cooperatives in and Regional Level Welfare insurance cooperatives in and Regional Level & Truck transport insurance (s ^(*5)) **One of the North Cooperative in the North Coop		
Other	Local Autonomy Law (Mutual Relief Work)	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Kyosaikai, Ze	ı Kaikan, Zenkoku Shiyu Bukken Saigai enkoku Jichi Kyokai, Zenkoku Koei ai Kyosai Kikou, Tokubetsuku Kyogikai		
y Law	Agricultural Disaster Indemnity Law		Agricultural NOSAI Zenk	Disaster Indemnity Associations ^(*7) ,		
ecial Indemnity Law Other	Fisheries Disaster Indemnity Law	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and	Fisheries Disaster Indemnity Associations ^(*8) , Gyosairen			
	Fishing Vessel Damage etc. Compensation Law	Fisheriés	Japan Fishin	g Vessel Insurance Association		

^{*1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8:} Regulated by Prefectural Levels.

^{*4 :} Regulated by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

^{*6 :} Regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

3 Major Product Line by Cooperative Insurers

Insurance products by the cooperatives cover total protection such as life and non-life as preparation for a variety of risks members face within their lives.

Cooperative insurers provide a wide range of coverage to satisfy the needs of their members. Among them, the five typical products are as follows;

(1) Fire Insurance

This is to provide coverage against damages to homes and contents caused by fire, lightning strike, burst and explosion. Also, there are some products which cover the damage caused by earthquake, storm, flood and snowfall.

◆◆◆ Major Cooperative Insurers which provide Fire Insurance and Name of Products ◆◆◆

	Organizations	Products
Agricultural Cooperatives	Zenkyoren	Fire insurance, Cooperative-owned building fire insurance, Building endowment insurance
Fishery Cooperatives	Kyosuiren	Fire insurance, Householders' comprehensive insurance
	Zenrosai	Fire insurance, Natural disaster insurance
Colosuladors	Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen	Fire insurance
Consumers Cooperatives	Zenkokuseikyoren	Fire insurance
Cooperatives	Seikyo Zenkyoren	Fire insurance
	Boeisyo Seikyo	Fire insurance
Business Cooperatives	Nikkaren	Fire insurance
Agricultural Insurance Society	NOSAI Zenkoku	Building endowment insurance, Comprehensive building insurance

^{*}Coverage for damages caused by earthquake, wind, flood, snow, and other natural disasters varies across cooperative insurance products. For details, please refer to pamphlets, general policy conditions, and other relevant materials provided by member societies.

(2) Life Insurance

This is to provide coverage against risks with regard to physical well-being (death, physical impediment, sickness, injury, nursing care). There are other types of insurance under which a policyholder can reserve money for the life after retirement or for the education of children.

◆◆◆ Major Cooperative Insurers which provide Life Insurance and Name of Products ◆◆◆

- Iviajoi Ci	Major Cooperative insurers which provide the insurance and Name of Products					
	Organizations	Products				
Agricultural Cooperatives	Zenkyoren	Group term life insurance, Comprehensive life insurance (Endowment life insurance, Whole life insurance, Nursing care insurance, Term life insurance, Children's insurance, Cancer insurance, Medical insurance)				
Fishery Cooperatives	Kyosuiren	Crews' welfare insurance, Comprehensive life insurance (Whole life insurance, Endowment life insurance, Child insurance, Special insurance, Medical insurance), Group credit life insurance				
	Zenrosai	Group term life insurance, Individual short-term life insurance, Individual short-term life insurance for children,Individual short-term life insurance for elderly, Individual long-term life insurance, Whole life insurance				
Consumers	CO-OP Kyosairen	Life/dwelling insurance, Juvenile insurance, Term life insurance, Whole life insurance				
Cooperatives	Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen	Life insurance				
	Zenkokuseikyoren	Life insurance (Life insurance, Children' s insurance, Elderly insurance)				
	Boeisyo Seikyo	Life insurance, Long-term life insurance				
	Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai	Life insurance, Children's insurance				
Business	Nikkaren	Life and personal accident insurance, Comprehensive personal accident insurance				
Cooperatives	Chusairen	Life and medical insurance				

(3) Personal Accident Insurance

This is to provide coverage for death or injury etc. caused by a variety of accidents.

◆◆◆ Major Cooperative Insurers which provide Accident Insurance and Name of Products ◆◆◆

	Organizations	Products		
Agricultural Cooperatives	Zenkyoren	Personal accident insurance		
	Zenrosai	Personal accident insurance, Traffic accident insurance		
Consumers Cooperatives	Zenkokuseikyoren	Personal accident insurance		
Cooperatives	Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai	Personal accident insurance, Traffic accident insurance		
Business Cooperatives	Nikkaren	Life and personal accident insurance, Automobile accident expenses insurance, Comprehensive personal accident insurance		

(4) Automobile Insurance

This policy provides compensation for damages to the other party caused by automobile accidents, accident coverage for the insured and their family members, and physical damage coverage for policyholders' vehicles. There are some organizations providing compulsory automobile liability insurance.

◆◆◆ Major Cooperative Insurers which provide Automobile Insurance and Name of Products ◆◆◆

	Organizations	Products
Agricultural Cooperatives	Zenkyoren	Automobile insurance, Compulsory automobile liability insurance
Consumers Cooperatives	Zenrosai	Automobile insurance, Compulsory automobile liability insurance
	Nikkaren	Automobile insurance
Business Cooperatives	Kokyoren	Automobile insurance, Compulsory automobile liability insurance
	Zenjikyo	Automobile insurance, Compulsory automobile liability insurance

(5) Annuity Insurance

Annuities are paid every year beyond the specified age after the contribution period to ensure financial stability after retirement.

◆◆◆ Major Cooperative Insurers which provide Annuity Insurance and Name of Products ◆◆◆

	Organizations	Products
Agricultural Cooperatives	Zenkyoren	Comprehensive life insurance (Assumed-interest-rate change type annuity), Retirement annuity insurance, National pension fund insurance, Defined contribution annuity insurance
Fishery Cooperatives	Kyosuiren	Fisherman annuity, National pension fund of fishery workers
Consumer Cooperatives	Zenrosai	Individual annuity, New group annuity

(6) List of Product Line Provided by Major Cooperative Insurers

	Organization			Produ	ct Line		
	Organization	Fire	Life	Accident	Auto.	Annuity	Others
Agricultural Cooperatives	Zenkyoren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishery Cooperatives	Kyosuiren	0	0			0	
	Zenrosai	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CO-OP Kyosairen	O*1	0				
	Daigaku Seikyo O O O O O O O O O O O O O						
Consumers Cooperatives	Zenkokuseikyoren	seikyoren O O O enkyoren O O*2 O*2					
Cooperatives Zenkokuseikyoren O O	O**2						
	Boeisyo Seikyo	0	0			uto. Annuity Others O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	
	Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai		0	0			0
	Nikkaren	0	0	0	0	0 0	0
Business	Kokyoren				0		
Cooperatives	Zenjikyo				0		
	Chusairen		0				0
Agricultural Insurance Society	NOSAI Zenkoku	0					0

^{%1:} Products are based on Zenrosai's policy terms and conditions.

"Others" are as follows;

- 'Worker's property accumulation savings insurance', 'Liability insurance', 'Volunteer comprehensive insurance' by Zenkyoren
- 'Mutual aid benefit insurance', 'Personal liability insurance' by Zenrosai
- 'Liability insurance' by Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai
- 'Labor disaster compensation insurance', 'Income guarantee insurance', 'Business interruption support insurance', 'Small and medium enterprises comprehensive liability insurance', 'Business interruption support insurance' by Nikkaren
- 'Rice, wheat and barley insurance', 'Livestock insurance', 'Fruit and fruit-tree insurance', 'Field crop insurance', 'Greenhouse insurance', 'Agricultural machine insurance', 'Agricultural machine replacement insurance' by NOSAI Zenkoku

^{2:} Products are provided by some of the member societies of Seikyo Zenkyoren

Business Results for Cooperative Insurers in Fiscal 2016

The following are the overall insurance business performance results for cooperative insurers in fiscal 2016, which are based on data of "Cooperative Insurance Yearbook 2018" (Business Results in Fiscal 2016) published by JCIA. Any errors in data up to fiscal 2015 have been corrected.

1 Overview of the Cooperative Insurance Business

	FY2015	FY2016	Growth
Number of Member Societies	6,464	6,448	- 0.2%
Number of Members (in thousands)	77,821	78,810	1.3%
Number of Policies (in thousands)	145,927	145,634	- 0.2%
Amount Insured (in billions of Yen)	1,053,852	1,042,612	- 1.1%
Premium Income (in billions of Yen)	8,257	8,242	- 0.2%
Claims Paid (in billions of Yen)	4,412	4,432	0.4%
Total Assets (in billions of Yen)	63,940	66,094	3.4%

(1) Number of Member Societies / Number of Members

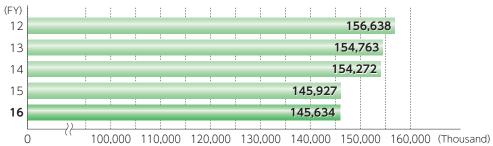
The number of member societies decreased by 0.2% (16) down to 6,448.

The number of members increased by 1.3% (990 thousand) up to 78,810 thousand.

(2) Number of Policies 145,634 thousand

The number of policies decreased by 0.2% (292 thousand) down to 145,634 thousand.

•Trend in number of policies

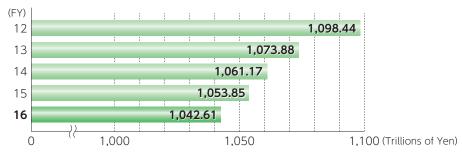


^{*} The decrease in FY2015 was mainly due to the product line consolidation carried out by one of JCIA member societies.

(3) Amount Insured 1,042.61 trillion yen

The amount insured (excluding automobile insurance and compulsory automobile liability insurance) decreased by 1.1% (11,240 billion yen) down to 1,042.61 trillion yen.

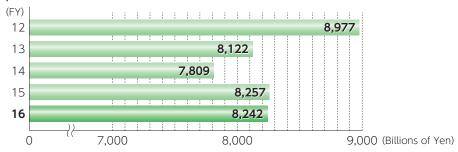
Trend in amount insured



(4) Premium Income 8,242 billion yen

The premium income decreased by 0.2% (16 billion yen) down to 8,242 billion yen.

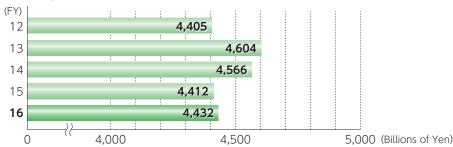
•Trend in premium income



(5) Claims Paid 4,432 billion yen

The claims paid increased by 0.4% (19 billion yen) up to 4,432 billion yen.

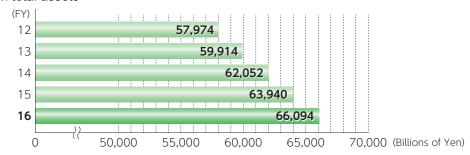
Trend in claims paid



(6) Total Assets 66,094 billion yen

The total assets increased by 3.4% (2,154 billion yen), reaching 66,094 billion yen.

Trend in total assets



Business Trends by Type of Insurance

(1) Fire Insurance

In comparison with the preceding year (Fiscal 2015), the number of policies decreased by 0.5% (142 thousand) down to 30,504 thousand. The amount insured increased by 0.3% (1,710 billion yen) up to 580,601 billion yen. The premium income increased by 8.5% (241 billion yen), reaching 3,069 billion yen. The claims paid increased by 22.9% (228 billion yen) up to 1,222 billion yen.

•	•	♦	Business Trend of Fire Insurance	•	•	\

	Number of		Amount		Premium		Claims Paid	
Fiscal Year	Policies (Thousand)	Change from Previous Year	Insured (Billions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	Income (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	(Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year
2012	32,301	- 1.4%	581,681	- 0.6%	1,814,907	- 1.0%	1,082,554	- 47.0%
2013	31,208	- 3.4%	576,653	- 0.9%	2,066,487	13.9%	1,064,560	– 1.7%
2014	30,890	- 1.0%	575,934	- 0.1%	2,562,731	24.0%	1,109,385	4.2%
2015	30,646	- 0.8%	578,891	0.5%	2,827,877	10.3%	994,237	- 10.4%
2016	30,504	- 0.5%	580,601	0.3%	3,069,177	8.5%	1,221,894	22.9%

(2) Life Insurance

In comparison with the preceding year (Fiscal 2015), the number of policies increased by 0.5% (284 thousand) up to 61,868 thousand. The amount insured decreased by 3.2% (11,763 billion yen) down to 358,398 billion yen. The premium income decreased by 6.8% (280 billion yen) down to 3,817 billion yen. The claims paid decreased by 8.7% (189 billion yen) down to 1,987 billion yen.

* *	Business Trend of Life Insurance		

Fiscal Year	Number of Policies (Thousand)	Change from Previous Year	Amount Insured (Billions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	Premium Income (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	Claims Paid (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year
2012	61,200	2.0%	388,102	- 2.5%	5,882,449	17.3%	2,062,683	- 4.5%
2013	60,551	- 1.1%	365,901	- 5.7%	4,715,912	- 19.8%	2,281,835	10.6%
2014	60,981	0.7%	353,865	- 3.3%	3,903,157	- 17.2%	2,197,059	- 3.7%
2015	61,584	1.0%	370,162	4.6%	4,096,968	4.9%	2,176,359	- 0.9%
2016	61,868	0.5%	358,398	- 3.2%	3,817,426	- 6.8%	1,987,260	- 8.7%

(3) Personal Accident Insurance

In comparison with the preceding year (Fiscal 2015), the number of policies decreased by 1.1% (283 thousand) down to 24,993 thousand. The amount insured decreased by 3.4% (2,534 billion yen) down to 71,496 billion yen. The premium income decreased by 2.2% (1.5 billion yen) down to 66.5 billion yen. The claims paid decreased by 2.5% (1.1 billion yen) down to 42.3 billion yen.

 Business Trend of Personal Accident Insurance 	•
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Fiscal Year	Number of Policies (Thousand)	Change from Previous Year	Amount Insured (Billions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	Premium Income (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	Claims Paid (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year
2012	33,905	- 0.6%	102,884	0.2%	64,609	- 1.6%	44,441	- 6.7%
2013	34,181	0.8%	104,112	1.2%	75,702	17.2%	48,504	9.1%
2014	33,874	- 0.9%	103,314	- 0.8%	74,316	- 1.8%	48,287	- 0.4%
2015	25,276	- 25.4%	74,030	- 28.3%	68,081	- 8.4%	43,450	- 10.0%
2016	24,993	- 1.1%	71,496	- 3.4%	66,549	- 2.2%	42,343	- 2.5%

(4) Automobile Insurance

In comparison with the preceding year (Fiscal 2015), the number of policies decreased by 0.9% (154 thousand) down to 16,557 thousand. The premium income increased by 0.3% (1.6 billion yen) up to 629.9 billion yen. The claims paid decreased by 3.6% (12.6 billion yen) down to 342.0 billion yen.

	Business Trend of Automobile Insurance		
	Dasiness frend of Automobile modifice		

Fiscal Year	Number of Policies (Thousand)	Change from Previous Year	Premium Income (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	Claims Paid (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year
2012	17,073	0.0%	592,565	5.2%	379,668	1.7%
2013	16,823	- 1.5%	623,946	5.3%	371,162	- 2.2%
2014	16,656	- 1.0%	628,591	0.7%	366,882	- 1.2%
2015	16,711	0.3%	628,288	0.0%	354,627	- 3.3%
2016	16,557	- 0.9%	629,880	0.3%	341,978	- 3.6%

(5) Annuity

In comparison with the preceding year (Fiscal 2015), the number of policies increased by 0.6% (29 thousand) up to 4,737 thousand. The premium income increased by 4.0% (24.1 billion yen) up to 622.3 billion yen. The claims paid decreased by 0.5% (4.3 billion yen) down to 816.8 billion yen.

Business Trend of Annuity	•
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Fiscal Year	Number of Policies (Thousand)	Change from Previous Year	Premium Income (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year	Claims Paid (Millions of Yen)	Change from Previous Year
2012	4,692	- 0.2%	585,192	- 11.4%	813,276	- 0.9%
2013	4,694	0.0%	602,985	3.0%	814,884	0.2%
2014	4,685	- 0.2%	601,809	- 0.2%	823,127	1.0%
2015	4,707	0.5%	598,270	- 0.6%	821,114	- 0.2%
2016	4,737	0.6%	622,336	4.0%	816,836	- 0.5%



Objectives

The purpose of JCIA shall be to promote sound development of the cooperative insurance businesses operated by cooperatives, thereby contributing to stabilizing the lives and improving the welfare of people engaged in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries as well as other employees and workers in local communities or small and medium-sized business owners.

History

After World War II, quite a few cooperative insurance societies were established and have subsequently developed in Japan. Cooperative insurance has steadily spread its network of cooperation and drawn further attention from the society as an entity supporting many members' life.

In these surroundings, cooperation and exchanges between cooperative insurers with common philosophy and base had been increasing, and there has arisen a need to establish a framework to share and coordinate the opinions of these societies in order to deal with common issues.

Under these circumstances, in April 1992, the Japan Cooperative Insurance Association Incorporated (JCIA) was established as a body to promote cooperation and coordination among cooperative insurance societies as a result of collective efforts by seven cooperative insures. After an establishment, JCIA has carried out activities such as research and study, training, publication, holding seminars and lectures, conducting "Research Committee on Cooperative Insurance Theory" in order to deal with common issues among the member societies and to promote exchanges between cooperative insurers.

Meanwhile, JCIA had developed cooperation with cooperative insurers in overseas, for example, joining International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) as an observer member in 1994. JCIA also recruited other cooperative insurers for expanding member societies.

JCIA launched the Customer Consultation Department in 2003 as the third party body with the aim of consultation and support for the resolution of complaints from cooperative insurance policyholders. It was certified by the Minister of Justice under the ADR Promotion Act in 2010.

JCIA mapped out "The direction of JCIA" in 2011 in order to appropriately respond to change in the business situation and the revision of laws. It was noted that JCIA was positioned as "the organization which encourage cooperation among cooperative insurance societies" and the principal objective of its business activities was "common benefit activities for member societies, also public interest activities in order to promote social understanding of cooperative insurance business as needed."

JCIA made a transition to a general incorporated association in April 2013, responding to a reform of the public interest corporation.

JCIA joined International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) as an associate member in 2014 in order to promote cooperation with overseas cooperatives.

Member Societies

At present, JCIA consists of 13 full members, 1 first-class supporting member and 3 second-class supporting members.

	Organization Name
	Zenkyoren (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives)
	Kyosuiren (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Fishery Co-operatives)
	Zenrosai (National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Cooperatives)
	Nihon Saikyosairen (Japan Reinsurance Federation of Consumers' Cooperatives)
	CO-OP Kyosairen (Japan CO-OP Insurance Consumers' Co-operative Federation, JCIF)
	Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen (University Co-operatives Mutual Aid Federation)
Full Member	Zenkokuseikyoren (The Federation of Japanese Consumer Cooperatives, FJCC)
	Seikyo Zenkyoren (Japan Federation of Mutual Aid Cooperatives, JAFMAC)
	Nikkaren (National Federation of Fire Insurance Co-operatives for Small Business)
	Kokyoren (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Truck Transport Co-operatives)
	Zenjikyo (National Federation of Motor Insurance Cooperatives)
	Zenrosai Kyokai (The Foundation for Promoting Workers Welfare and Mutual aid Insurance)
	Kyoei Fire (The Kyoei Fire and Marine Insurance Company Ltd.)
First-class Supporting Member NOSAI Zenkoku (National Agricultural Insurance Association)	
	Boeisyo Seikyo (Consumer Co-operative of Ministry of Defense)
Second-class Supporting Member	Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai (The Kanagawa Kenmin-Kyosai Consumer's Cooperative Insurance)
	Chusairen (Small and Medium size Enterprise Welfare Cooperative Insurance Federation)

4 Management Structure



Kyosai: cooperative insurance in Japanese Hoken: commercial insurance in Japanese

5 Main Activities

1 Research and Studies

- Conducting research and study activities and expressing opinions to address issues that are common to the member societies (e.g. the revision of laws, etc.).
- Research on cooperative insurance theory conducted by the "Research Committee on Cooperative Insurance Theory," comprised mainly of researchers.
- Keeping track of trends in the cooperative/commercial insurance business and exchanging information.

2 Human Resources Development and Training

- Holding training seminars in order to improve the skills of the executives and staff of cooperative insurers, and provide information for the member societies and related organization.
- Support for training seminars operated by the member societies.

3 Public Relations and Publications

- Publishing a monthly journal "Cooperative and Commercial Insurance," and its supplement "Cooperative Insurance Yearbook" etc.
- Publishing "Cooperative insurance in Japan Fact Book."
- Holding "JCIA Seminars" with the aim of raising awareness of cooperatives and the cooperative insurance business, and considering various social issues.

4 Promotion of Mutual Exchanges

- Promotion of cooperation and coordination among the member societies.
- Cooperation with the cooperative insurance-related organizations.

5 International Activity

• Cooperation with overseas cooperatives and cooperative

- insurers such as International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF).
- Conducting research and studies on trends in the situation concerning cooperative/commercial insurance in overseas.
- Dissemination of information to overseas countries.

6 Consultations

- Providing consultations for general matters and complaints by telephone regarding cooperative Insurance business operated by the member societies.
- Support for the resolution of disputes provided by Customer Consultation Department as the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) body certified by the Minister of Justice under the ADR Promotion Act.



JOIA Member Societies

1 List of Member Societies

Full Member

Full Member is a cooperative that is established in accordance with the laws for the purpose to operate the cooperative insurance business nationwide in Japan and any organization equivalent.

■ First-Class Supporting Member

First-Class Supporting Member is a cooperative body that is established in accordance with laws for the purpose of operating the cooperative insurance business nationwide in Japan.

■ Second-Class Supporting Member

Second-Class Supporting Member is a cooperative body that is established in accordance with laws for the purpose of operating the cooperative insurance business.

Full Member

Zenkyoren National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives

Address	JA Kyosai Building, 2-7-9, Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8630 Tel:+81-3-5215-9100 (http://www.ja-kyosai.or.jp/)			
Applicable Law	The Agricultural Cooperative Society Law			
Competent Authority	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries			
Establishment	 Established in 1951. In 2000 Zenkyoren (then a national federation only) merged with 47 prefectural insurance federations, which had been located in each prefecture, thus forming a two-tiered organizations consisting of 47 prefectural headquarters and a national headquarter (Tokyo). 			
Line of Business	 Japan Agricultural Cooperatives (JA) nationwide and Zenkyoren jointly run a cooperative insurance business. Zenkyoren administers operations including the planning of diverse programs, systems development, asset management, and liability reserves for claims payment. 			
Insurance Product Range	 Whole life insurance Single-premium whole life insurance Underwriting-standards mitigation type whole life insurance Endowment life insurance Single-premium endowment life insurance Term life insurance Cancer insurance Medical insurance Underwriting-standards mitigation type medical insurance Nursing care insurance Nursing care insurance Single-premium nursing care insurance Automobile insurance Personal accident insurance Liability insurance Cooperative-owned building fire insurance Volunteer comprehensive insurance Worker's property accumulation savings insurance Retirement annuity insurance National pension fund insurance Defined contribution annuity insurance and others 			
Features	 Cooperative insurance business is one of the services along with farm guidance activity, marketing/purchasing and credit provided by Japan Agricultural Cooperative Group (the JA Group.) Based on its business philosophy of mutual aid, Zenkyoren provides coverage for the entire lives of its members and policyholders (comprehensive coverage of life, homes and automobiles). JA and Zenkyoren jointly contract policies and integrally provide coverage through fulfilling each function. 			

Kyosuiren National Mutual Insurance Federation of Fishery Co-operatives

Address	CO-OP Building, 1-12, Uchikanda 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0047 Tel:+81-3-3294-9641 (http://www.kyosuiren.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Fisheries Cooperative Association Law
Competent Authority	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Establishment	 Zensuikyo, forerunner of Kyosuiren, entered into cooperative insurance business in 1951. In 2008, Japan Fisheries Cooperatives (JF), Fish Processors Cooperative Association and Kyosuiren jointly came to write cooperative insurances business according to the revision of the Fisheries Cooperatives Association Law.
Line of Business	• Various types of cooperative insurance, such as fire insurance, householder's comprehensive insurance, comprehensive life insurance, crew's welfare insurance and the like.
Insurance Product Range	Choko (Comprehensive life insurance) Kurashi (Householder's comprehensive insurance) Nenkin (Fishermen annuity) Kasai (Fire insurance) Noriko (Crew's welfare insurance) Nagisa Nenkin (National pension fund of fishery workers) Danshin (Group credit life insurance)
Features	 Kyosuiren comprises fishery cooperatives (JF), fish processor cooperatives and their federations. It was established as the only federation engaged in the cooperative insurance business with each member cooperative and federation contributing a share of the capital. Jointly selling cooperative insurance contracts, Kyosuiren, JF and others play their respective roles and operate the cooperative insurance business in an integrated manner. As a major business of JF, JF Cooperative Insurance aims to expend all possible means to "safeguard the livelihoods" of fisherpersons, thereby contributing to the development of attractive fishing villages and communities.

Zenrosai National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Cooperatives

Address	12-10, Yoyogi 2-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-8571 Tel:+81-3-3299-0161 (http://www.zenrosai.coop/)				
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law				
Competent Authority	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare				
Establishment	 The first Workers and Consumers Insurance Cooperative was established in Osaka in 1954. Since then the "Prefectural Workers and Consumers Cooperative" has been established in each prefecture. Prefectural Workers and Consumers Cooperatives were integrated nationwide into Zenrosai in 1976. 				
Line of Business	• Cooperative insurance business, and guidance, information sharing, and arrangements for member societies				
Insurance Product Range	New fire insurance New natural disaster insurance New fire insurance with social contribution for eco-house New fire insurance for mortgage of Labour Bank Kokumin insurance (General public insurance) New comprehensive health insurance New life insurance Iki Iki Oen (Long term life insurance) Annuity insurance	My car insurance (Automobile insurance) Compulsory automobile liability insurance Traffic accident insurance New group annuity insurance Group term life insurance New group life insurance for retirees Mutual aid benefit insurance			
Features	 Zenrosai is a federation which consists of 58 member societies: 47 member societies of Consumers Insurance Cooperatives based on local workers in each prefecture, eight member societies of Consumer Insurance Cooperatives for workers at workplaces which are constructed beyond the borders of the prefectures, and three member societies of consumers' federations. Since the establishment of the Prefectural Workers and Consumers Cooperatives, Zenrosai has operated its business mainly with the involvement of labor unions. Cooperative insurance businesses have been operated centered on workplaces. In 1983, Zenrosai launched the "Kokumin insurance (General public insurance)" which took over the scheme of Group term life insurance to capitalize on its achievements at workplaces in expansion of community-based business. Since then, its policyholder base has expanded to cover community workers and consumers. 				

Nihon Saikyosairen Japan Reinsurance Federation of Consumers' Cooperatives

Address	Zenrosai-Kaikan, 12-10, Yoyogi 2-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-8531 Tel:+81-3-3320-1711 (http://www.saikyosairen.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law
Competent Authority	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
Establishment	 1975: Kokuro Kyosai (currently Zenkoku Kouun Kyosai), Zentei Kyosai, Dentsu Kyosai, Zenrinya Kyosai (currently Shinrinroren Kyosai) and Zensembai Kyosai (currently Zentabaco Seikyo) formed "Tansan Kyosai Rengokai (Federation of Industrial Cooperative Insurance Societies)" and started automobile insurance. 1980: Zenrosai, Jichiro Kyosai and Nikkyosai Seikyo (currently Kyoshokuin Kyosai) joined these companies to form Jidosha Kyosairen. 1987: Jidosha Kyosairen was reorganized and incorporated to Zenrosai Saikyosairen (Zenrosai Reinsurance Federation of Consumers' Co-operatives). 2004: Automobile insurance business was incorporated to Zenrosai. 2006: The name of the organization changed from Zenrosai Saikyosairen to Nihon Saikyosairen.
Line of Business	• Reinsurance business serving as the key reinsurance player for the cooperative insurers
Insurance Product Range	 Fire reinsurance Natural peril reinsurance Life reinsurance Traffic accident reinsurance Comprehensive reinsurance Automobile reinsurance Compulsory automobile liability reinsurance
Features	• Nihon Saikyosairen is the sole reinsurance operation society in Japan. Through its reinsurance business, Nihon Saikyosairen has contributed to the stabilization of the management of membership and the sound development of the business. It also engages in strengthening the relationship between the member societies and cooperative insurers, and in supporting direct contracts.

CO-OP Kyosairen Japan CO-OP Insurance Consumers' Co-operative Federation (JCIF)

Address	4-1-13, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0051 Tel:+81-3-6836-1300 (http://coopkyosai.coop/)
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law
Competent Authority	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
Establishment	 1951: Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU) was established. 1984: JCCU started cooperative insurance business. 2008: CO-OP Kyosairen was established as a federation specializing in cooperative insurance businesses. 2009: CO-OP Kyosairen started to operate the businesses.
Line of Business	• Cooperative insurance business, and guidance, communication and adjustment for consumer cooperative member societies, as well as promotion of life planning activities
Insurance Product Range	 CO-OP insurance (Tasukeai) CO-OP insurance (Aipurasu) CO-OP insurance (Zuttoai) CO-OP fire insurance
Features	 CO-OP Kyosairen, jointly founded by consumer cooperatives operating CO-OP insurance businesses and JCCU, is a consumers' federation that runs cooperative insurance business. CO-OP Kyosairen promotes cooperative insurance in conjunction with the supply and purchasing business for the members, and cooperative insurance businesses are steadily growing. CO-OP Kyosairen is attracting attention as the developing and expanding cooperative insurer in Japan.

Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen University Co-operatives Mutual Aid Federation

Address	12-4, Koenji Minami 1-chome, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 166-0003 Tel: +81-3-5307-1173 (http://kyosai.univcoop.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law
Competent Authority	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
Establishment	 Zenkoku Daigaku Seikyoren, National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA), was founded in 1958. NFUCA started to write cooperative insurance business in 1981. University Co-operatives Mutual Aid Federation was established as a federation specializing cooperative insurance business separated from NFUCA in 2010.
Line of Business	• Cooperative insurance business, and guidance, communication and adjustment for consumer cooperative member societies
Insurance Product Range	• Life insurance • Fire insurance
Features	 University Co-operatives Mutual Aid Federation took over the cooperative insurance business of the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFCUA). It has been over 35 years since University Co-operatives Mutual Aid Federation started its comprehensive insurance business for students. The current number of policyholders is 700,000 (as of the end of September, 2016). Cooperative insurance under University Co-operatives Mutual Aid Federation is characterized by systems oriented towards college students. For example, there is a special contract in which students who have lost their supporters are able to continue student life. With life insurance, the students can take out increased coverage for inpatient and outpatient care and physical impediments by restricting the limit of coverage for death.

Zenkokuseikyoren The Federation of Japanese Consumer Cooperatives (FJCC)

Address	1-10-1, Numakage, Minami-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama 336-8508 Tel:+81-48-845-2000 (http://www.kyosai-cc.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law
Competent Authority	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
Establishment	 Established in 1971 as The Cooperative Unions of Greater Tokyo Area. Changed its name to The Federation of Japanese Consumer Cooperatives in 1981. Started life insurance (Kenmin Kyosai) business in 1982. Started new fire insurance (with coverage for storm and flood damage) business in 1985.
Line of Business	• Cooperative insurance business, and guidance, communication and adjustment for consumer cooperative member societies
Insurance Product Range	• Life insurance (Child type, Comprehensive coverage type, Hospitalization coverage type, Middle and early old age type, Hospitalization coverage for the middle and early old-aged type) • Fire insurance (New fire insurance)
Features	• A prefectural cooperative insurance scheme or "Kenmin Kyosai" was established in Saitama in 1973 and it has subsequently spread throughout Japan. At present, this scheme operates in 39 prefectures. The number of policyholders is 21.03 million (as of the end of March, 2017.)

Seikyo Zenkyoren Japan Federation of Mutual Aid Cooperatives (JAFMAC)

Address	Nissay New Osaka Building 14F, 4-30, Miyahara 3-chome, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 532-0003 Tel:81-6-6350-0033 (http://www.zenkyoren.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law
Competent Authority	Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
Establishment	• Established in 1956.
Line of Business	• Cooperative insurance business of fire and reinsurance business of fire and traffic accident insurance
Insurance Product Range	• Fire insurance • Fire reinsurance • Traffic accident reinsurance
Features	• Nationwide organizations that operate community-based cooperative insurance businesses cooperate with each other with the aim of developing and improving their regional cooperative insurance businesses.

National Federation of Fire Insurance Co-operatives for Small Business

Address	Nihonbashi Center Building, 11-2, Nihonbashi Hama-cho 2-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0007 Tel: +81-3-3667-5111 (http://www.nikkaren.or.jp/)	
Applicable Law	The Law on Cooperatives of Small and Medium Enterprises, etc	
Competent Authority	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	
Establishment	Established in 1960. Merged National Mutual Insurance Federation Enterprises (Chusho-Kigyo Kyosai) in 2014.	of Co-operatives for Small and Medium Size
Line of Business	 Fire insurance business written jointly with the member societies Reinsurance of cooperative insurance liability accepted by the member societies in the course of cooperative insurance business Original insurance for members of the member societies 	
Insurance Product Range	Fire insurance Automobile insurance Labor disaster compensation insurance Medical & cancer insurance Comprehensive personal accident insurance Life and personal accident insurance	 Automobile accident expenses insurance Business interruption mutual aid insurance Income guarantee insurance Small and medium enterprises comprehensive liability insurance Business interruption support insurance
Features	 Nikkaren is an insurance cooperative organized in response to the needs of small and medium-sized business owners, who desire to support each other and protect themselves from unexpected accidents such as fire. Sales promotion activities are systematically conducted by signing consignment contracts with small and medium-sized enterprises, including cooperatives, commerce and industry cooperatives, chambers of commerce and industry, and commerce and industry conferences. 	

Kokyoren National Mutual Insurance Federation of Truck Transport Co-operatives

Address	Tokyo Track Synthesis Hall, 1-8, Yotsuya 3-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0004 Tel:81-3-3341-6271 (http://www.kokyoren.or.jp/)	
Applicable Law	The Law on Cooperatives of Small and Medium Enterprises, etc.	
Competent Authority	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	
Establishment	• Established in 1972.	
Line of Business	• Reinsurance business, guidance, adjustment, and communication for member societies and cooperative insurance business compensating for injuries which the employees of the member societies suffered from labor accident.	
Insurance Product Range	 Bodily injury liability insurance Property damage liability insurance Physical damage insurance Drivers' and passengers' personal accident insurance Labor accident insurance Compulsory automobile liability insurance 	
Features	 Trucking businesses greatly contributed to the economic growth of Japan after the war as the leading provider of land transportation. However, frequent traffic accidents have caused social problems and since around 1960, dump trucks have been deemed "deadly vehicles." Consequently, in the commercial insurance industry, premium for all types of trucks have been raised and in some cases the insurer has refused to sign contracts with trucking businesses. After 1970, truck transport insurance cooperatives have been established throughout Japan and cooperative insurance businesses have spread widely to address problems related to traffic accidents. Kokyoren is characterized by its cooperatives in the truck transport industry. Kokyoren actively promotes traffic accident prevention along with its cooperative insurance business. It holds approximately 2,500 seminars on safe driving every year. 	

Zenjikyo National Federation of Motor Insurance Cooperatives

Address	Ichigaya Center Building, 14, Hachiman-cho, Ichigaya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0844 Tel:+81-3-3267-1911 (http://www.zenjikyo.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Law on Cooperatives of Small and Medium Enterprises, etc.
Competent Authority	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Establishment	• Established in 1975.
Line of Business	• Reinsurance business for member societies engaged in automobile insurance and compulsory automobile liability insurance businesses. Guidance, liaison and coordination for member societies. Lending business funds to member societies and borrowing funds on behalf of member societies. Automobile insurance business written jointly.
Insurance Product Range	Automobile insurance Compulsory automobile liability insurance
Features	• Member societies conduct automobile insurance businesses, in order to help small and medium- sized enterprises, etc. to cover, under the spirit of mutual aid, economic losses incurred by other small and medium-sized enterprises, etc. due to accidents that are attributed to the ownership, use, or management of automobiles owned by them. Zenjikyo operates reinsurance business for those member societies to diffuse their responsibility to provide insurance coverage and ensure that the claims will be paid in an appropriate manner.

Zenrosai Kyokai The Foundation for Promoting Workers Welfare and Mutual aid Insurance

Address	Roundcross Shinjuku 5F, 11-17, Yoyogi 2-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0053 Tel:+81-3-5333-5126 (http://www.zenrosaikyokai.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	Act on Arrangement of Relevant Acts Incidental to Enforcement of the Act on General Incorporated Associations and General Incorporated Foundations and Act on Authorization of Public Interest Incorporated Associations and Public Interest Incorporated Foundations
Competent Authority	Cabinet Office
Establishment	 National Association of Workers Welfare Promotion was established in 1982 and Foundation for Workers Welfare and Cooperative Insurance was established in 1989. Both of them were consolidated and became Zenrosai Kyokai (National Association for Workers Welfare and Cooperative Insurance) in 2004. Zenrosai Kyokai effected entity conversion to a general incorporated foundation in 2013.
Line of Business	• Zenrosai Kyokai is a general incorporated foundation that runs think-tank business and mutual aid business contributing to the improvement and development of workers welfare.
Insurance Product Range	 Expenses insurance for celebration or condolence Fire insurance for cooperative societies' own buildings Automobile insurance for cooperatives societies' own cars Non-life insurance agency business (Fire insurance, Automobile insurance)
Features	 Business associated with expenses insurance for celebration or condolence, fire insurance for cooperative societies' own buildings, and automobile insurance for cooperatives societies' own cars is operated as an approved specified insurance business under the Insurance Business Law. As a business to complement the approved specified insurance business, a non-life insurance agency business of fire insurance and automobile insurance has been operated for organizations that are eligible to be policyholders in the approved specified insurance business since July 1, 2014. (Insurer: the Kyoei Fire and Marine Insurance Company Ltd.) Zenrosai Kyokai comprises the "Three Basic Corporations of Zenrosai," together with Zenrosai and Nihon Saikyosairen.

Kyoei Fire The Kyoei Fire and Marine Insurance Company Ltd.

Address	18-6, Shimbashi 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8604 Tel: +81-3-3504-0131 (http://www.kyoeikasai.co.jp/)	
Applicable Law	The Insurance Business Law	
Competent Authority	Financial Services Agency	
Establishment	and cooperative societies including agriculture, shinkumi banks, and consumer cooperatives.In, 2003, Kyoei Fire became a publicly held corp	atives, the predecessor of today's cooperative unions, forestry and fishery cooperative unions, shinkin/poration from a mutual company. The company was ocieties, establishing a firm position as an insurance ative societies both in name and in reality.
Line of Business	• Under the spirit of coexistence and mutual aid, the company operates non-life insurance business based on strong relationships with various cooperative unions.	
Insurance Product Range	General insurance • Fire insurance (earthquake insurance) • Automobile insurance • Compulsory automobile liability insurance • Personal accident insurance • Medical and cancer insurance • Liability insurance • Comprehensive property insurance • Comprehensive workers' compensation insurance • Hull and cargo insurance, and others	 [Insurance with maturity refund] Building endowment comprehensive insurance Personal accident insurance with maturity refund Personal accident insurance with maturity refund paid in the form of annuity, and others
Features	• The company operates a unique insurance business based on relationships with various cooperative unions and cooperative societies. It has an established reputation for an ability to develop products. For instance, it developed Japan's first insurance products including fire insurance with a maturity refund and hole-in-one insurance.	

First-Class Supporting Member

NOSAI Zenkoku National Agricultural Insurance Association

Address	19, Ichiban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8411 Tel: +81-3-3263-6411 (http://www.nosai.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	Act on Arrangement of Relevant Acts Incidental to Enforcement of the Act on General Incorporated Associations and General Incorporated Foundations and Act on Authorization of Public Interest Incorporated Associations and Public Interest Incorporated Foundations
Competent Authority	Cabinet Office
Establishment	 Agricultural Insurance Society was established in 1940. Agricultural Cooperative Insurance Society was established in 1948. Agricultural Cooperative Insurance Society was renamed to "National Agricultural Insurance Association" in 1949. The organization shifted to a public interest incorporated association in 2013.
Line of Business	• Research and study of the agricultural insurance system, research and study for promoting agriculture and stabilizing agricultural management, spread and awareness-raising activities for farmers and the public, and others
Insurance Product Range	• The businesses of NOSAI are managed by the Agricultural Mutual Relief Associations (municipal level), the Prefectural Federation of Agricultural Mutual Aid Associations (prefectural level), etc. It operates the following insurance businesses: rice, wheat and barley insurance; livestock insurance; fruit and fruit-tree insurance; field crop insurance; greenhouse insurance; farmer's house insurance; and farming equipment insurance.
Features	 The agricultural disaster compensation system (NOSAI system) was established in 1947 with the aim of stabilizing agricultural management by covering losses that farmers may incur in the event of an unexpected accident such as a natural disaster, etc. The businesses of NOSAI are managed by the Agricultural Mutual Relief Associations (municipal level), the Prefectural Federation of Agricultural Mutual Aid Associations (prefectural level), etc. Forms of insurance other than farmer's house insurance and farming equipment insurance are reinsured by the government. NOSAI Zenkoku is the central organization of the Prefectural Federation of Agricultural Mutual Aid Associations (including specified associations.)

Second-Class Supporting Member

Boeisyo Seikyo Consumer Co-operative of Ministry of Defense

Address	Yamawaki Bldg. 2F, 4-8-21, Kudanminami Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0074 Tel: +81-3-3514-2241 (http://www.bouseikyo.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law
Competent Authority	Mistry of Health, Labor and Welfare
Establishment	• Established in 1963.
Line of Business	Various types of cooperative insurance
Insurance Product Range	• Fire insurance • Life insurance • Long term life insurance
Features	 Boeisyo Seikyo is a consumers' cooperative society. Its affinity groups in workplace are Ministry of Defense defined by Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Defense (Chapter II), Mutual Aid Association Of Ministry of Defense defined by National Public Officers Mutual Aid Association Act (Act No.3), Labor Management Organization for USFJ Employees, Incorporated Administrative Agency defined by Act on the Labor Management Organization for USFJ Employees, Independent Administrative Agency, and Boeisyo employee consumer cooperative. The organization structure and corps for Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces spreads nationwide, and its headquarter is in Tokyo and staff are stationed in each place in order to operate the business.

Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai The Kanagawa Kenmin-Kyosai Consumer's Cooperative Insurance

Address	1-1-8-2, Sakuragi-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-city, Kanagawa 231-8418 Tel: +81-45-201-0816 (http://www.kenminkyosai.or.jp/)
Applicable Law	The Consumers' Livelihood Cooperative Society Law
Competent Authority	Kanagawa Prefecture
Establishment	 1966: A voluntary organization was established and provided "Comprehensive life insurance" for citizens in Kanagawa Prefecture. 1973: "The Kanagawa Kenmin-Kyosai Consumer's Cooperative Insurance" was certified and recognized as "Kenmin Kyosai" in Kanagawa Prefecture.
Line of Business	Cooperative insurance business
Insurance Product Range	• Life and children insurance • Liability insurance • Traffic accident insurance • Personal accident insurance
Features	• Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai is a cooperative society in Kanagawa specialized in cooperative insurance business focusing on life insurance. It also operates an educational business for its members, where various events are conducted including "Iki-iki Kenko (Vivacious Health)," "Iki-iki Seikatsu (Vivacious Life)," and "Child Care Support."

Chusairen Small and Medium size Enterprise Welfare Cooperative Insurance Federation

Address	Nihonbashi Aruga Bldg, 2-2-5, Nihonbashi Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0027 Tel: +81-3-3275-1121
Applicable Law	The Law on Cooperative of Small and Medium Enterprise, etc
Competent Authority	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Establishment	• Established in 2012.
Line of Business	 Reinsurance business of insurance liability borne by the member societies. Joint cooperative insurance business concerning insurance contracts for which it bears insurance liability jointly with member societies. A range of other businesses conducted in support of member societies.
Insurance Product Range	Reinsurance business for Life and personal accident insurance etc. Life and medical insurance
Features	• Chusairen was established as a federation in January 2012. Its base is a cooperative insurance society newly established by a public interest corporation who had been operated cooperative insurance business for small and medium-sized owners, responding to the laws related to the reform of the public interest corporation. Chusairen provides various support business and reinsurance business for the member societies as well as joint cooperative insurance business with the members.

2 Member Societies' Efforts towards Natural Disasters

(1) Insurance Claims and Condolence Money Paid by Member Societies

In the wake of natural disasters such as huge earthquakes including the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 and the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, powerful typhoons, and heavy rains, we endeavored to pay insurance claims, and condolence money promptly to the affected members in order to help them put their lives back in order as quickly as possible.

Payments of Insurance Claims and Condolence Money by Member Societies Relating to Major Large-scale Natural Disasters

Year	Name of Natural Disasters	Claims and Condolence Money Paid
1991	19th typhoon of 1991 (Mireille)	172 Billion Yen
1995	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	144 Billion Yen
2004	18th typhoon of 2004 (Songda)	136 Billion Yen
2011	Great East Japan Earthquake	1,251 Billion Yen
2016	Kumamoto Earthquakes	177 Billion Yen

^{**}The above figures are the total amount of payments calculated based on reports from individual member societies as of the end of September 2017. Some member societies may include in the amount of payments not only general insurance payouts but also life insurance payouts.
The total amount of payments does not include any payments made by member societies who are not able to figure out the amount for each disaster.

19th typhoon of 1991 (Mireille)

After hitting Nagasaki Prefecture on September 27, 1991, Typhoon Mireille moved northeast through the Sea of Japan and re-hit Hokkaido. It caused extensive damage across Japan from the Nansei Islands to Hokkaido.

Human damage: Number of missing and dead: 62; number of injuries: 1,499.

Property damage: Number of damaged houses: 170,447; number of houses inundated above and below floor level: 22,965. **Source of figures for casualties and damage: Japan Meteorological Agency website, "Examples of typhoon disaster."

Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

The magnitude-7.3 earthquake with the epicenter near the Akashi Strait off the north shore of Awaji Island occurred on January 17, 1995. It wreaked havoc in extensive areas of the Kinki region, mainly Hyogo Prefecture.

Human damage: Number of missing and dead: 6,437; number of injuries: 43,792.

Property damage: Number of completely destroyed houses: 104,906; number of half destroyed houses: 144,274; number of houses completely and half destroyed by fire: 7,132.

**Source of figures for casualties and damage: Japan Meteorological Agency special website, "20 years from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake."

18th typhoon of 2004 (Songda)

After hitting Nagasaki Prefecture on September 7, 2004, Typhoon Songda moved northeast through the Sea of Japan and then north along the west coast of Hokkaido. It caused costly damage chiefly to the Chugoku and Kyushu regions. Human damage: Number of missing and dead: 46; number of injuries: 1,399.

Property damage: Number of damaged houses: 64,993; number of houses inundated above and below floor level: 21,086. **Source of figures for casualties and damage: Japan Meteorological Agency website, "Examples of typhoon disaster."

Great East Japan Earthquake

The magnitude-9.0 earthquake with its epicenter off the Sanriku coast and subsequent tsunami that occurred on March 11, 2011 caused extensive devastation, especially to the Tohoku and Kanto regions.

The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company, also hit by the disaster, deteriorated into a grave crisis involving leak of radioactive materials.

Human damage: Number of missing and dead: 22,152; number of injuries: 6,230.

Property damage: Number of completely destroyed houses: 121,776; number of half destroyed houses: 280,326; number of partially destroyed houses: 744,269 (as of September 8, 2017).

**Source of figures for casualties and damage: Japan Meteorological Agency website, "Major earthquakes having occurred in and around Japan (since 1996)."

Kumamoto Earthquakes

The magnitude-6.5 earthquake and the magnitude-7.3 earthquake that occurred on April 14 and 16, 2016, respectively with their epicenters located in the Kumamoto region of Kumamoto Prefecture inflicted catastrophic damage, especially on Kumamoto and Oita Prefectures.

Human damage: Number of missing and dead: 251; number of injuries: 2,792.

Property damage: Number of completely destroyed houses: 8,677; number of half destroyed houses: 34,577; number of partially destroyed houses: 162,373 (as of November 14, 2017).

**Source of figures for casualties and damage: Japan Meteorological Agency website, "Major earthquakes having occurred in and around Japan (since 1996)."

(2) Member Societies' Efforts

Zenkyoren Tarpaulin Services and Temporary Housing for Disasters

Zenkyoren provides free tarpaulins to its policyholders whose houses have been damaged by a natural disaster. It also provides temporary housing to its policyholders free of charge for a period of up to eight months, in cases where their houses have become uninhabitable due to natural disaster or fire. (These services are available only to Zenkyoren policyholders who meet certain requirements.)



Zenkyoren Tarpaulin (Size: $3.6\text{m} \times 5.4\text{m}$)



Zenkyoren Temporary Housing

■ Endowed Courses to Support Reconstruction

In partnership with the Hirayama Ikuo Volunteer Center of Waseda University, **Zenkyoren** has been conducting endowed courses for its students since April 2012, featuring the approache to the earthquake disaster reconstruction in Tohoku region and the rural social economy. The courses provide an opportunity to study rural communities systematically and practically and to understand the significance of "kizuna (bonds)" or "mutual aid" through conducting initiatives for earthquake disaster reconstruction by actually going to the disaster affected areas as well as thinking about the various issues that rural communities affected by the earthquake disaster now face.



Lecture titled, "Community Renovation as Part of Tohoku Recovery – Agriculture-based Regional Construction"

■ Restoration Support Activities

Kyosuiren has carried out a fishing villages supporting campaign since fiscal 2011. Aiming to put the fisheries industry and fishing villages devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake back in order as quickly as possible and not to let the memory of the earthquake disaster that did tremendous damage to Japan's fisheries industry fade away, the campaign supports disaster-hit areas by giving a certain amount of money calculated based on the number of insurance contacts signed during the campaign period to the Jyoseibu (Women's Groups), Seinenbu (Youth Groups), etc. of fisheries cooperatives engaged in activities contributing to restoration of the fisheries industry and fishing villages as well as cultivation of leaders who will bear the future of the fisheries industry. In addition, in the wake of the Kumamoto Earthquakes that occurred on April 14, 2016, Kyosuiren visited all insured households in the disaster-hit area to check the damages they incurred and conducted rescue and support activities, including monetary donation and provision of relief supplies.



Logo for Restoration Support Activities

Forest Development Activities by Children

Since December 2013, **Zenrosai** has supported "Midori no Shonendan" (Junior Green Friends Federation), a children's organization that carries out greening activities, through the greening projects implemented by the National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization. In an effort to help children develop a mindset of taking good care of the environment, Zenrosai has carried out activities such as supplying trees for planting and donating uniforms for the activity to elementary schools in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and across the nation.

In fiscal 2016, Zenrosai performed such activities at 6 schools and gave support to "Midori no Shonendan" from 22 schools.



Forest Development Activities by Children

■Organizing the "Bosai Cafe (Disaster Prevention Cafe)" Event

Since February 2008, **Zenrosai** has held the "Bosai Cafe (Disaster Prevention Cafe)" event as a delivery lecture promoted by the Cabinet Office with the aim of raising public awareness for disaster risk reduction. With the motto "Full of Fun and Easy to Understand" and conducted across Japan, the event provides programs that encourage children, adults, and families to join, including a variety of activities from emergency food tasting and lectures by experts and others to disaster prevention scientific experiment shows and disaster prevention games. The events took place 68 times in fiscal 2016, reaching so far a total of 304 times.



Disaster Prevention Scientific Experiment Show

■Flower Activities

Between March and April 2017, executives and employees of **Zenrosai** worked together with the victims of the Kumamoto Earthquakes to make flowerbeds and plant flowers at 7 temporary housing complexes in Kumamoto Prefecture.



Flowerbeds Making

■Zenrosai Kizuna Performance

In May 2017, **Zenrosai** held "Zenrosai Kizuna Performance" at commercial facilities in Kashima-town, Kamimashiki-gun, Kumamoto to entertain children and their families affected by the Kumamoto Earthquakes. In the first part, "Akira-chan & Tambourine-kun" sang happy songs with the children, while in the second part, "Balloon Performer Syan" created a magical world of balloons. The event was visited by a total of around 700 children and parents who filled the venue with lots of smiles.



Kizuna Performance

■Zenrosai Story-telling Sessions for Children

Zenrosai has been conducting "Story-telling sessions for children" since November 2012. The sessions were originally aimed at fostering psychological care and sound development of the children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Then, having compiled a picture booklet titled Jishinga Kitara Bosai Ehon Bosai (a picture booklet to prepare against an earthquake) in order to raise awareness for disaster risk reduction among kids, Zenrosai carries out the story-telling sessions at nursery schools and kindergartens, as well as disaster prevention/mitigation and parenting events throughout Japan. These story-telling sessions have so far been held at 224 places and enjoyed by a total of 24,442 children.



Story-telling Sessions for Children

3

International Activities of the Member Societies

Philosophy and practice of cooperatives have been spreading not only in Japan but also in the world. Each member society participates in various international activities based on its belief that development of co-operative movement in the world contributes to the world peace, enhances social justice and improves people's living and welfare.

(1) ICA

International Co-operative Alliance (ICA, established in 1895, and headquartered in Brussels, Belgium) is an alliance of cooperatives, in which 301 alliance members across 105 countries participate (as of July 2017). Nationwide organizations of cooperatives across all kinds of sectors including agriculture, consumer, credit, insurance, health, fishery, forestry, workers, tourism, housing, and energy join in ICA from all over the world. The worldwide affiliated members of ICA amount to about 1 billion individuals.

For the purpose of expanding the cooperative movement all over the world, promoting international cooperation among cooperatives, disseminating the values and principles of a cooperative, and contributing to world peace and security, ICA has been working on spreading information, conducting international conferences and seminars, and taking initiatives to reflect its opinions and suggestions to the United Nations (UN) agencies and other organizations.

JCIA has been an associate member of ICA since 2014.

ICA Organization



(2) ICMIF

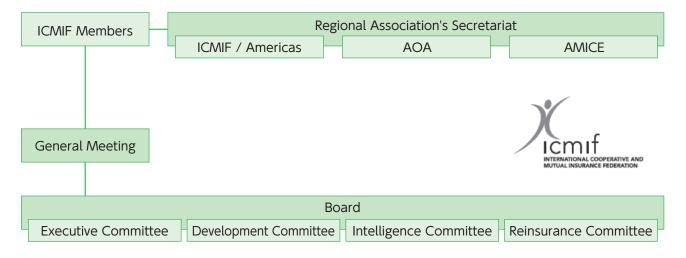
International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF, established in 1922, and its secretariat in Manchester, UK), is one of the sectional organizations of ICA. There are 280 members in 75 countries at ICMIF as of October 2017. The total amount of premium income in all members is about 307 billion USD, which accounts for approximately 6.5% of the global insurance market share in fiscal 2016. ICMIF members conduct some activities, such as exchanging information, holding a seminar, personnel exchange and reinsurance business in order to work toward development of cooperative insurance.

There are eight ICMIF full members, which are Zenkyoren, Kyosuiren, Zenrosai, Nihon Saikyosairen, CO-OP Kyosairen (JCIF), Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen, Nikkaren, and Kyoei Fire among JCIA member societies, also JCIA is an observer member. Zenkyoren and Zenrosai are the ICMIF Board member. Japanese ICMIF members enhance international cooperation by serving as the director or the member of various committees of ICMIF.

Also, there are 49 members in 14 countries at Asia and Oceania Association of the ICMIF (AOA), which is a regional association of ICMIF, as of October 2017, and it holds a seminar and a forum and so on.

AOA's Secretariat is at Zenkyoren, and Japanese cooperative insurers have played leadership role of its operation.

ICMIF Organization



Japanese cooperative insurers of ICMIF members

Full Member	Main Role of Japanese Cooperative Insurer		
 Zenkyoren Kyosuiren Zenrosai Nihon Saikyosairen CO-OP Kyosairen (JCIF) Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen Nikkaren Kyoei Fire 	ICMIF Director Election Organization Board Member Excusive Committee Member Intelligence Committee Member Reinsurance Committee Member	Zenkyoren, Zenrosai Zenkyoren Zenkyoren, CO-OP Kyosairen (JCIF) Zenkyoren	
Observer Member	AOA Director Flection Organization		
 JCIA JA Kyosai Research Insutitute	 Chairperson and Secretariat Auditor	Zenkyoren Kyosuiren	





ICMIF Biennial Conference (October 2017 in London)

V Appendices

1 Beginning of the Modern Cooperative Movement in the World

The Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society, established by a group of 28 artisans in the town of Rochdale in 1844, is generally regarded as the prototype of the modern cooperative society.

The original rules and practices they put in place formed what are known as the Rochdale Principles of Co-operation, foremost among which are the principles of 'one member one vote', 'pro rata distribution of profits upon the amount of purchases', 'charging the market prices without credit', and 'allocation of certain profits to education'. These principles are known as the Rochdale Principles of Co-operation and have been succeeded to the cooperative movement today.

These cooperative principles were adopted as a form of "Statement on the Cooperative Identity" (see page 30) at the General Assembly held in Manchester in 1995.

Today, cooperatives are offering a variety of products and services in many countries worldwide and are estimated to have around 1 billion members.



The actual building of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society established in 1844. This is currently used as the Rochdale Pioneers Museum.

2 History of Cooperative Insurance in Japan

(1) Establishment of Industrial Union

After the medieval period, mutual financing associations called 'tanomoshi-kou' or 'Yui-kou' came into existence among community members in villages and towns. However those associations gradually ceased to exist as a result of the modernization by the Meiji Government.

Nevertheless, German cooperatives attracted the attention of the Japanese Government, which focused on importing advanced western systems under a policy of increasing wealth and military power. "A cooperative model contributes to the stable lives of farmers which makes up the majority of the Japanese population, and will lead to political stability in the long run." This was the background of establishing approval of the Industrial Union Act in 1900 by the Meiji Government. The act, Japan's first legislation on cooperatives, had clauses such as 'freedom of membership & withdrawal' and 'one member one vote'. The industrial unions which were established based on this act later became Agricultural cooperatives, Consumer cooperatives and Credit Unions that we see today.

(2) The Dawn of Cooperative Insurance

The idea of providing insurance services through industrial unions emerged at the beginning of the Taisho Period. At the 20th National Industrial Union General Meeting in 1924, a resolution of 'Commencement of life insurance service' was officially proposed and approved. Although the same kind of resolutions had been adopted almost every year at the general meetings until 1935, it was quite difficult to realize the service.

Toyohiko Kagawa insisted that industrial unions needed to be authorized to do insurance business under the Insurance Business Act, but it did not come true. There were two main reasons for this: the policy of Ministry of Finance to close the insurance market from the unions, and strong opposition from existing insurance companies to open the market to the unions.

Mr Kagawa and his peers tried to purchase insurance companies. They realized a great success in purchasing and merging two companies and set up Kyoei Fire & Marine Insurance Company in 1942. It started as a company which emphasized its industrial union character with several leaders from industrial unions assuming key posts in the management team. In later years, various cooperative laws according to each business sector were enacted during the years between 1947 and 1949, which provided cooperatives with the basis with which to start Kyosai (cooperative insurance) business, as well as other services.

(3) Toyohiko Kagawa

Toyohiko Kagawa was a Japanese Christian social movement leader and social reformer in Taisho and Syowa period. He played a great role in the labor movement and peasant movement as well as in the cooperative movement in prewar Japan. Moved by words, "One for all, all for one", he devoted his life to realize a society based on mutual help. "The true nature of insurance is derived from comradeship and socialism, however commercial insurers make its transition to capitalism. Insurance should be provided by cooperatives", he stated and made every effort to include a clause on 'cooperative insurance' in Insurance Business Law. However, his dream did not come to pass.

Later, cooperative societies started to provide insurance service, which were different from original idea, under the supervision of various cooperative acts.



3 Applicable Laws of Major Cooperative Societies in Japan (Extract)

In Japan, various types of cooperatives are operating on different bases and conditions. Also, applicable laws in which Japanese authorities regulate the cooperative insurers' business and management are diverse according to the types of organizational background.

The first article of each applicable law stipulates the objects of the organization. The clause spells out what we desire to achieve through insurance services by cooperatives.

- Article 1 This law has for its objective the promotion of the sound development of the farmers cooperative system, thereby improving agricultural productivity and the socio-economic states of farmers as well as ensuring the development of national economy.
- Article 7 A cooperative has for its objective the performance of business in order to serve its members and member cooperatives to the maximum degree.

Fisheries Cooperative Association Law ♦Kyosuiren

- Article 1 This law has for its purpose advancement of the national economy by increasing fisheries productivity and improving the economic and social status of fishermen and marine products processors through the development of fisheries cooperative association.
- Article 4 A cooperative has for its objective the performance of business in order to serve its members and member cooperatives (omitted) to the maximum degree, and shall not be allowed to do business for profit making purpose.
- **Consumer Cooperative Law** \Diamond Zenrosai, Nihon Saikyosairen, CO-OP Kyosairen (JCIF), Daigaku Seikyo Kyosairen, Zenkokuseikyoren, Seikyo Zenkyoren, Boeisyo Seikyo, Kanagawa Kenmin Kyosai etc
- Article 1 This law has for its objective of the voluntary development of the consumer cooperative system by people, thereby stabilizing the people's lives and improving the life and culture.
- Article 9 The objective of each Association shall be consistent with the functions which it is authorized to perform.

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Cooperatives Act Onikkaren, Kokyoren, Zenjikyo, Chusairen etc

- Article 1 The purpose of this Act is to provide for the organizations necessary for persons engaged in a small and medium-sized commercial business, industrial business, mining business, transport business, service business or any other business and other persons, such as workers, to engage in business in a cooperative manner based on the spirit of mutual support, and to secure the opportunity for these people to conduct fair economic activities, thereby promoting their voluntary economic activities and achieving an improvement in their economic status.
- Article 5 (1) (i) The purpose of the cooperative shall be mutual support among partner of the cooperative or partner of the federation.
 - (2) A cooperative shall have the purpose to directly serve its partner through its activities, and it shall not conduct any activities for the purpose of only benefiting specific partner.
 - (3) A cooperative shall not be utilized for any specifical party.

Agricultural Disaster Indemnity Law NOSAI Zenkoku

- Article 1 Agricultural Disaster Indemnity has for its objective to provide farmers with disaster indemnity caused by unexpected natural events, thereby stabilizing farm management and improving agricultural productivity.
- Article 2 Agricultural Disaster Indemnity is mutual aid services provided by agricultural cooperatives and municipalities (special wards, if existing), insurance services provided by federations of agricultural cooperatives, and reinsurance & insurance services provided by the government.

4 ICA Statement on the Co-operative Identity

The Statement on Co-operative Identity was adopted at the 1995 General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), held in Manchester on the occasion of the Alliance's Centenary. The Statement was the product of a lengthy process of consultation involving thousands of co-operatives around the world.

⟨Definition⟩

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

⟨Values⟩

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

(Principles)

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

3. Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6. Co-operation among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

5

Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

(1) International Year of Co-operatives (IYC)

The United Nations (UN) established "International Year" in 1957. It's a period of time which the UN dedicates an entire calendar year to focus on particular common topics or themes for the entire world. The UN has worked on each country to observe and take measures on them.

The UN declared 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) at the General Assembly in December 2009, highlighting the contribution of co-operatives to socio-economic development, particularly their impact on poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration.

Based on the global slogan for the year, which is "Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World", a lot of activities were carried out all around the world, as well as in Japan.



(2) Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

IYC was discontinued at the end of year 2012. However, with a view of 2020, International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) drafted the "Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade" to guide co-operatives into their strongest growth phase based on achievements of IYC. Following comments and discussions the Blueprint was approved by the General Assembly in Manchester in October 2012. It was issued in its final form in February 2013.

The 2020 Vision

- 1. The acknowledged leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability
- 2. The model preferred by people
- 3. The fastest growing form of enterprise

Five Strategic Themes to Achieve the 2020 Vision

- 1. Elevate participation within membership and governance to a new level
- 2. Position co-operatives as builders of sustainability
- 3. Build the co-operative message and secure the co-operative identity
- 4. Ensure supportive legal frameworks for co-operative growth
- Secure reliable co-operative capital while guaranteeing member control

6 Inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List

In November 2016, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) decided, after a proposal by Germany, to include the "idea and practice of organizing shared interests in cooperatives" on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Intangible cultural heritage is defined in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as "the practices, expressions, knowledge, skills, etc. that, transmitted from generation to generation, are constantly recreated by communities and groups." The Intergovernmental Committee which decided the inscription praised a cooperative as an "association that allows for community building through shared interests and values creating innovative solutions to societal problems, from generating employment and assisting seniors to urban revitalization and renewable energy projects."

Moreover, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations 70th General Assembly in September 2015 acknowledges the role of the diverse private sector, such as "cooperatives," in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the agenda.

As described above, cooperatives are receiving increasing recognition from the international community. Cooperatives in Japan are also expected to further develop the idea and practice of cooperatives to pass them on to the next generation, through ceaseless efforts to produce effective solutions to problems faced by local communities and create better lives, work and community.

COOPERATIVE INSURANCE IN JAPAN FACT BOOK 2017 PUBLISHER: JAPAN COOPERATIVE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED LILAC SANEI BLDG. 1F, 23-1, SANEI-CHO SHINJUKU-KU, TOKYO 160-0008 JAPAN PHONE: +81-3-5368-5751 FAX: +81-3-5368-5760

URL:http://www.jcia.or.jp/

PUBLISATION PRINTER/Otowa Printing Co.,Ltd.



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