



Key Takeaways from the Annual Co-operative Leadership Conference (ACLC) in Taipei, Taiwan.

This year ACLC organised by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), took place in Taipei from 15 to 18 October. The Society sent eleven participants, including staff and Committee of Management members, to this insightful event. The theme of the conference "Running Sustainable Businesses," provided valuable insights into various aspects of sustainability. In this report, we will discuss the key takeaways from the conference, including cybersecurity and the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into cooperative operations.



Cybersecurity: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Business Operations

The conference commenced with a session highlighting the significance of cybersecurity for sustainable business operations. Mr. Bryan Tan, the Head of Technology Infrastructure & Services at NTUC Enterprise Nexus Cooperative Limited, shared his expertise in cybersecurity. His insights emphasised the evolving tactics employed by cyberthreat actors and the importance of being well-prepared to defend against them.

Mr. Tan's presentation underscored that as businesses increasingly rely on technology and digital infrastructure, they become vulnerable to cyberattacks. To ensure the sustainability of their operations, cooperatives need to adopt a proactive approach to safeguard their digital assets and sensitive information. This involves staying updated on the latest cybersecurity threats, implementing robust security measures, and fostering a cybersecurity-aware organisational culture.

Leveraging ESG for Sustainable Co-operative Operations

A key highlight of the conference was the presentation by Professor Ang Hak Seng, the former Executive Director of the Registry of Co-operative Societies (RCS) and currently the Director of the Centre of Excellence for Social Good at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). Prof. Ang debunked common myths related to ESG and shed light on how cooperatives can incorporate ESG principles into their daily operations to create a brighter future.

Prof. Ang's presentation emphasised that sustainability and ESG are deeply embedded in the DNA of cooperatives. He eloquently stated, "Sustainability and ESG are ingrained in co-operatives' DNA. Not only can co-ops do good and do well, but they can also do right together."

The core message was that cooperatives have a unique advantage in integrating ESG principles, as they inherently prioritise the well-being of their members and communities. Prof. Ang argued that it is not just about profit but about making a positive impact on society. He presented a compelling case for cooperatives to take an active role in addressing environmental challenges, promoting social well-being, and adhering to strong governance practices.

To facilitate the practical integration of ESG principles, all participants received an ESG 3-2-1 checklist after Prof. Ang's inspiring sharing. This checklist provided a structured framework for cooperatives to assess and improve their ESG initiatives while adopting sustainable practices.

Application of Knowledge: Taking Action while in Taipei

The impact of the conference was immediate, as participants from our Co-op were inspired to put the knowledge gained into practice. By making conscious choices in our activities, we leveraged on the well-planned transport system of Taipei city to reduce our carbon footprint. This included using public transportation to commute around the city for shopping and dinner, aligning with our cooperative values of environmental responsibility and social good.



At a bus stop while waiting for the bus. Our commitment to sustainability and ESG principles was evident during our stay in Taipei!

Conclusion

This year ACLC provided a unique platform for cooperative leaders and members to explore and exchange ideas on running sustainable businesses. The insights gained from Mr. Bryan Tan's cybersecurity expertise and Prof. Ang Hak Seng's ESG principles have left an indelible mark on our cooperative's approach to sustainability.

As we move forward, the Teachers' Co-operative is committed to embracing these principles, using them as guiding stars to navigate our path towards a more sustainable and responsible future.

In conclusion, the Annual Co-operative Leadership Conference has left us not only inspired, but armed with practical knowledge and tools to make a lasting impact on our cooperative and the communities we serve. We are committed to running a sustainable business and being leaders in the cooperative movement's journey towards a brighter and more responsible future.



Delegates from our Co-op reducing their carbon footprint by walking from their hotel to the Ximending Night Market.

