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Coastal Community Credit Union welcomes visitors from Mongolia

VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC CANADA - Sanj Bat-Oyun and Darisuren Damdinsuren are a long way from home. Both women are guests of Coastal Community Credit Union visiting Canada as participants in the Canadian Co-operative Association's Women's Mentoring Program.

The women are part of the growing worldwide movement of financial co-operatives. Ms. Damdinsuren is chairwoman for the Moncu Secondary Savings and Credit Co-operative where she supervises ten staff members, and works to ensure that members' needs are being met.

Through her participation in the Women's Mentoring Program, Ms. Damdinsuren would like to learn more about risk management, innovative products and services and credit union legislation. Darisuren Damdinsuren was born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital city, and is married with two grown children. She is an active board member of the International Women's Association of Mongolia and has a keen interest in gender issues.

Sanj Bat-Oyuna is a supervising board member of the Mongolian Confederation of Credit Unions (MOCCU). Established in 2007, MOCCU is Mongolia's the national credit union organization with 14,765 members. As a member of the supervisory board, Oyuna supervises the overall operations of the board of directors in policy formation and implementation, as well as financial operations of MOCCU.

Because the national organization is so new it needs help prioritizing issues and carrying out the tasks associated with those issues. Member recruitment and retention, as well as finding qualified staff are also issues and Oyuna is hoping her Canadian counterparts can help her with initiatives in these areas.

Through her involvement with the Women's Mentoring Program, Oyuna wants to improve her risk management skills and learn about a model for the management and supervision of a central organization.

In 2001 she and her friends initiated their own credit union titled 'Credit Union Mongolia'. Oyuna has been managing the credit union for the last seven years and is currently the chairwoman.

CCA Women's Mentoring Program Co-ordinator Laurie Tennian says the mentoring program, now in its 9th year "brings together people from around the world who are working toward the same goal of providing financial services to members who have made a decision to be owners of their financial institutions. This year we have women from Nepal, the Philippines, Malawi, Ghana, Uganda and Mongolia participating. We so appreciate the efforts credit unions like Coastal Community make to support this program and we know that they will gain as much from the experience as the women will."

Bruno Dragani, Coastal Community's Senior Vice President of Human Resources agrees, "We're very pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to the growth of the international co-operative movement. Sharing knowledge and resources at the local, regional, national and international levels is central to our philosophy."

For more information about Sanj Bat-Oyun's and Darisuren Damdinsuren's visit to Coastal Community Credit Union and to arrange for interviews with the two women, contact Laurie Vosters at 250-741-3200/laurie.vosters@cccu.ca. To learn more about the Canadian Co-operative Association's Women's Mentoring Program, visit:

<http://www.coopscanada.coop/coopdevelopment/internationaldev/womensmentoring/>.

About the Canadian Co-operative Association

The Canadian Co-operative Association is a national association for co-operatives in Canada, representing more than seven million co-operative and credit union members from more than 2,000 organizations. CCA members come from many sectors of the economy, including finance, insurance, agri-food and supply, wholesale and retail, housing, health and the service sector. CCA provides leadership to promote, develop, and unite co-operatives and credit unions for the benefit of people in Canada and around the world.

About Coastal Community Credit Union

Serving Island communities for more than 60 years, Coastal Community Credit Union is Vancouver Island's largest regionally Credit Union. With more than 80,000 members, over 625 employees, and \$1.5 billion in assets, Coastal Community offers smart financial services and solutions through an extensive network of credit union, insurance, investment and business services centres across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Coastal Community supports the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the communities it serves through various community investment programs and the volunteer efforts of their dedicated employees. For more information, visit us on the web at www.cccu.ca.