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WACUP, NACCU steering committee meeting underway

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The West Africa Credit Unions Against Poverty (WACUP), in collaboration with the National Association of Co-operative Credit Unions (NACCU) steering committee meeting is underway at a local hotel in Kololi.

The meeting brought together participants from two of the four member countries of WACUP, namely The Gambia and

Ghana.

Michael Gannon, credit union development adviser, who doubles as the technical adviser to WACUP, explained that WACUP is networking the credit union movement in four West African countries, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone to exchange technical, development expertise, and in particular to channel expertise and experience from NACCU in The Gambia and Ghana.

Gannon noted that the meeting is meant to guide the programme, view the progress of the credit unions in reducing poverty in the four countries and develop a strategy, whereby the four countries can collaborate to improve the opportunities for people to use credit unions.

Baboucarr Jeng, the general manager of the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia, disclosed that NACCU is the epic body that supports the development supervision of credit union, throughout The Gambia.

The Gambia, Jeng added, is part of WACUP, which is being supported by European Union ACP microfinance, through the Irish Aid of micro-finance. The project has steering groups, which consist of four West Africa Anglophone countries: The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana.

"The Gambia is hosting the meeting and parts of the activities include reviewing project activities and The Gambia has used the initiative to organise other parallel programmes," Jeng stated.

NACCU's general manager further added that part of the programme aims to have governance training which would be facilitated by the Ingrid Fischer, Africa Regional director, Canadian Cooperative Association.

According to him, regulation is important in credit unions and they will organise regulatory round table, to discuss and share experience with other delegates attending the meeting.

For her part, Birgit Flamma of Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperative senior advisor in Ghana, said the serving banks in Germany has the same idea like credit unions in Africa.

The savings bank, she added, is doing international business with the largest banking group in Germany.

Author: **Omar Wally**



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