



Raiffeisen saw the problems of an immobile class structure in which the poor were dominated by exploitive capitalists.

Edward A. Filene of Massachusetts, U.S.A was introduced to the credit union idea in 1907 when in India.

He realized that usury flourished in part of America because banks rarely provided personal loans to working people.

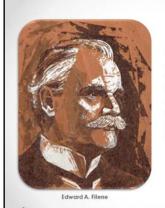
Edward A. Filene

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He practiced moral austerity for he felt guilty about his wealth and was determined to use it to improve the world.

As a wealthy merchant, Filene understood that the best merchants do not sell products but serve human needs.



In1908, Filene invited Alphonse Desjardins, a Canadian journalist who had promoted a form of credit association in Quebec called people's bank, to help forming credit unions in the U.S.





The world leaders of Credit Union movement remind us in ACCU of our debt to the past, and challenge us to preserve and perfect the gift they have given us in order to make impact on peoples' lives socially and economically.





In 2006, United Nations published the "Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development", a joint product of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Capital Development Fund.

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In the same year, ACCU published a Training Manual on "Microfinance Innovation for Credit Unions."

Realizing that credit cooperatives had to cope with the changing environment and were forced to improve their services and products to meet demand of members.





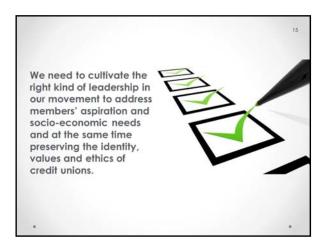


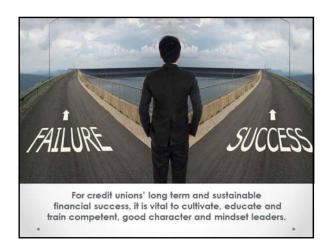




Increasing concentration of wealth in the top 10 per cent of the world population continues to be a big problem.

{No Poverty} and {Zero Hunger by the year 2030} are the first and second goals of the 17 U.N. Sustainable goals.





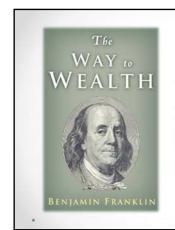




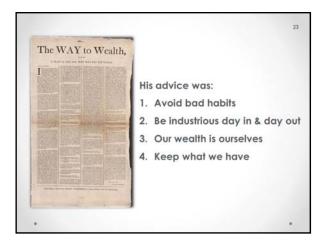








"The Way to Wealth" written in 1757 by Benjamin Franklin in which he thought of wealth as an asset, not as making a profit today but may be tomorrow.



For Benjamin Franklin, the way to build wealth must run through character, an intangible capital of great value. What he believed might also be good advice for credit unions in Asia and our individual members.

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