NACF leads joint effort to assist Ukrainian refugees

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| Refugee relief donation ceremony  **Date & time:** Monday, 9 May 2022, 3pm – 5pm  **Venue:** NCC head office in Warsaw, Poland  **Contributions:** 100,000 euros in money and in kind  **Attendees:** NACF (Korea), NCC (Poland), ORKOOP (Turkey), Ukoopspilka (Ukraine) |

□ The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) of Korea—whose chairman, Sung-hee Lee, is the president of the International Agricultural Co-operative Organisation (ICAO)—has partnered with Polish and Turkish cooperatives to assist their counterparts and refugees in Ukraine as the Russian aggression continues.

□ The National Cooperative Council (NCC) of Poland and the Central Union of Turkish Forestry Cooperatives (ORKOOP), two of the NACF’s principal partners, recently called for assistance for Ukrainian refugees temporarily staying in their respective countries. NACF responded to this call as a top 10 coop and a leader in the global cooperative movement that is committed to upholding the principle of “Cooperation among Cooperatives” and demonstrating universal love for humanity.

□ On 9 May, NACF vice-chairman Jae-sik Lee met with NCC president Mieczysław Grodzki and Ukraine Central Union of Consumer Societies (Ukoopspilka) chairman in Warsaw, Poland. At the meeting, Lee delivered a donation of 100,000 euros on behalf of NACF to be used to provide humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. He also emphasized the importance of coops’ role in helping safeguard human dignity.

□ Over the years, under the leadership of several ICAO presidents, NACF has led disaster relief efforts for Japan, China, Nepal and the Philippines, while also contributing greatly to the growth of agriculture and cooperatives in developing countries.

□ NACF chairman Sung-hee Lee said: “Through this donation, NACF seeks to provide a model for other global cooperatives and demonstrate our leadership in the global cooperative movement in our capacity as the ICAO president’s cooperative.”

□ Prior to the donation ceremony in Warsaw, the NACF delegation also visited the Indian Farmer Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) in India and ORKOOP in Turkey, and discussed prospective business opportunities. The partner organizations also agreed to arrange exchange programs to enable developing countries to learn from Korean agriculture and NACF to drive growth in their agricultural and rural sectors.