

# Asia Microfinance Forum 2008

Hanoi, Vietnam

August 26 – 29, 2008

## Call for Papers

The world's microfinance industry is in the midst of unprecedented expansion and transformation. These changes are resulting in an increasing array of competing imperatives and the growing need for long-term strategic planning. Accordingly, the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 will focus on the challenges and innovations that will have the greatest impact on microfinance in the coming decades and provide a window to the future of microfinance, especially in Asia.

The Banking With the Poor Network (BWTP) and the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC), with funding from the Citi Foundation, are pleased to convene the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam, August 26 -29, 2008. This milestone event will bring together over 200 leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas and opportunities.

The theme for the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 will be:

### ***Microfinance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Future Trends & Opportunities***

Papers are invited for consideration to be presented at the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008, addressing any of the following five themes, to be received no later than the **15<sup>th</sup> March 2008**:

#### **Theme 1: Financing and Investment**

- Microfinance investment funds
- Leveraging local capital
- Access to funds from multi-national and private sector banks
- Private and social equity investments
- Legal and regulatory challenges, including in transition economies.
- The role of central banks in microfinance
- Future of subsidies
- How MFIs can structure, negotiate and manage debt financing
- Guarantees, venture capital, preference shares, securitisation and loan management or partnership facilities
- Value chains and multiple partnership
- The challenges of regulatory and legal constraints

#### **Theme 2: Savings and Asset Building**

- Asset building for the poor
- The challenges of regulatory and legal constraints, including in transition economies.
- Savings mobilisation
- Leveraging remittances
- Housing finance
- Accessing microfinance for basic service
- Microinsurance

#### **Theme 3: Industry Networks**

- Governance and management structures
- Institutional capacity building
- Product innovation
- Measuring impact
- Advocacy and representation
- Regulatory issues

#### **Theme 4: Technology**

- New directions in ICTs for microfinance
- Funding innovations in microfinance technology.
- Information management and MFIs
- E-banking regulatory environments
- Data Security

#### **Theme 5: Microfinance and Sustainable Development**

- Energy lending – access to modern and renewable energy
- Funding environmentally sustainable microenterprises
- Expanding access to water and sanitation
- Carbon offsetting and microfinance

**BWTP and FDC are inviting abstracts based on papers, research or practical experience. Submissions are welcome on any of the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 themes outlined above and will be considered for presentation in plenary and panel sessions. Abstracts should be no more than 500 words and must be received by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008. For enquires and abstract submission, please email Mr. Jamie Bedson at [info@bwtp.org](mailto:info@bwtp.org) and visit the BWTP website at [www.bwtp.org](http://www.bwtp.org) for further details on Asia Microfinance Forum 2008.**