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2nd BWTP International Asia Microfinance Forum 2008

Given the success of the first [Asia Microfinance Forum](#) in 2006, the BWTP Network is organising a second Asia Microfinance Forum to be held in 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The forum is expected to be held from the 25th to the 29th of August, 2008.

Further information regarding the Asia Microfinance Forum will become available over the coming months and will be published through our newsletter and our 2008 Asia Microfinance Forum Website. If you would like to be kept informed about this event please register your [details here](#).

BWTP Linkages and Partnerships Symposium and Workshop

The BWTP network and the Foundation for Development Cooperation organised a symposium and workshop on linkages and partnerships in microfinance in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop was sponsored by the Citi Foundation.



The symposium and workshop was held from 7 to 9 May 2007 at Hatton National Bank in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event included a symposium, training workshop and a session on Microfinance and Disaster Management.

The workshop is the second in a series of events planned over the next two years as a part of the BWTP Network capacity building program in Asia which is sponsored by Citi Foundation. The next workshop is expected to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from the 5th – 7th of September, 2007.

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In This Issue:

- ❖ Asia Microfinance Forum 2008
- ❖ BWTP Linkages and Partnership
- ❖ BWTP Member News
- ❖ Microfinance News



If you know of any microfinance organisations that would be interested in joining the BWTP Network let us know. Our contact details are listed below.



If you want to subscribe to our E-newsletter, [email us](#).



The BWTP Network is an initiative of [The Foundation for Development Cooperation](#)

The [Citi Foundation](#) is a supporter of the BWTP Network.

Citi Foundation



BWTP Member News

❖ CSD Nepal and its Microfinance Program

The Centre for Self-help Development (CSD), Nepal, established in August 1991, is a Financial Intermediary Non-Governmental Organisation (FINGO). CSD provides microfinance services to poor women under the group guarantee system without any collateral security.

- [CSD Nepal Microfinance Program](#) (PDF 8KB)
- [CSD Nepal Progress Update](#) (PDF 11KB)

❖ Highlights from The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd. (Pakistan)

The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd. (FMFB) is the first private sector microfinance bank in Pakistan. FMFB mission is to alleviate poverty through sustainable economic development. To read more about FMFB's recent highlights which include: the financial transparency award, mobile banking initiative, non-financial services and MIS System [click here](#). (PDF 75KB)

❖ Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI)

BRI over the past few months has been actively involved in various programs and events in the region including several microfinance study visits, the Asian Bankers Summit and the 51st Executive Committee Meeting & CEO Policy Forum of Asia-Pacific Rural Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA). More in-depth information is available below in PDF format regarding BRI's news and activities.

- [JCR-VIS reaffirms ratings of The First MicroFinance Bank Limited](#) (PDF 44KB)
- [BRI Microfinance Study Visit Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia 5th – 9th March, 2007.](#) (PDF 206KB)
- [BRI Special forum on commercial micro financing in the Asian Bankers Summit 2007.](#) (PDF 97KB)
- [Microfinance Study Visit from Bank Simpanan Nasional \(BSN\) Malaysia & Orix Leasing Pakistan.](#) (PDF 167KB)
- [The 51st Executive Committee Meeting & CEO Policy Forum of Asia-Pacific Rural Agricultural Credit Association \(APRACA\).](#) (PDF 121KB)

Microfinance News

❖ Intellectap's Investment Advisory Facilitates Legatum's US\$25 Mln Investment in SHARE Microfin Limited

During May, Legatum Global Development and Aavishkaar Goodwell announced a landmark investment deal in Share Microfin Limited (SML), India's leading microfinance institution. Legatum, a private firm that invests in capital markets and in initiatives that support human and social development, along with the India-focused microfinance development company Aavishkaar Goodwell, will invest US \$27 Million in SML. [More...](#) (PDF 81KB)

❖ **Legatum Invests US\$4.5 Million in FINO to Support Microfinance Technology Development**

Legatum, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Coronet Capital Limited, announced an investment of US\$4.5Mln in India-based Financial Information Network and Operations Pvt. Ltd. (FINO). FINO is pioneering smart card technology and back office solutions which support microfinance institutions, banks, insurance companies and government institutions which serve the poor in India and globally. This investment will accelerate FINO's growth plans and enable it to play an important role in the transformation of the microfinance sector, leading to greater efficiencies and lower costs for borrowers. [More...](#) (PDF 68KB)

❖ **New Legislation on Microfinance**

The Pathfinder Foundation, supported by the Sri Lanka Business Development Centre, organised a Sanvadaya (a stake holder discussion) on the proposed Legislation on Micro Finance recently at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo. [More...](#)

❖ **2007 Annual Boulder Microfinance Training Program**

Registrations are now open for the 13th annual Boulder Microfinance Training Program which will be hosted by the International Labor Organisation (ILO) in Turin, Italy. The program will be run from the 16th of July to 3rd of August, 2007. Participants will have their choice of over 40 elective courses to fit their needs and interests, including savings, remittances, agricultural microfinance, microfinance plus, and risk and portfolio management. For details [click here](#).

❖ **CGAP's Technology Program Call for Applications**

During April, CGAP called for applications for the second round of CGAP's Technology Program. The Program is seeking projects that will demonstrate sustainable technology approaches that overcome constraints to accessing finance, and help reach clients that traditional microfinance has found to be too poor, remote, or marginalised to serve. CGAP will offer strategic and technical advice, funding, and in-depth research to support selected pilots, and successful applicants will get assistance to develop a business plan. The deadline for this second round of applications is June 25, 2007. For details on how to apply [click here](#).

❖ **Philippines: Mobile Commerce Partnership**

Leading wireless services provider Smart Communications (SMART) and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK), one of the country's top five banks, recently entered into a strategic partnership that will push the use of mobile commerce in delivering fast and accessible financial services to benefit LANDBANK's OFW (Overseas Filipino Workers) clientele. LANDBANK and SMART also agreed to cooperate in developing products and services to address the requirements of LANDBANK's priority sectors – farmers and fisher folk, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro entrepreneurs, and local government units (LGUs). [More...](#)

❖ **MCPI and the MIX release the report: Benchmarking Philippine Microfinance 2005**

The Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI) and the Microfinance Information eXchange, Inc. (MIX) released Benchmarking Philippine Microfinance 2005, the second annual report on the topic. This report explores the performance of the two major players in Philippine microfinance – NGOs and rural banks. To examine financial and operational performance and the development of the Philippines microfinance market, the report draws on 2005 performance data for 45 Philippine microfinance institutions and background information on the historical and legislative environment for microfinance. You can view the Benchmarking Philippine Microfinance 2005 report [here](#). (PDF 267KB)

❖ **Asia/Pacific Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils**

In March 2008, the Microcredit Summit Campaign will partner with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to host the Asia/Pacific Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils (APRMS) in Islamabad, Pakistan from the 4th – 6th. Further details regarding the session topics, panellists, program, venue and registration will be available in the near future. To visit the Microcredit Summit Campaign website [click here](#).

Dear All,

I am pleased to announce that Ms Marie-Sophie Blanchet will assume the position at FDC of Head – Microfinance Initiatives. Before joining FDC, Ms. Blanchet worked for Development International Desjardins in Canada where she was responsible to identify, develop and manage various microfinance investment and technical assistance projects in developing countries worldwide. Ms. Blanchet, who holds a Master's Degree in International Management from HEC Montreal (Quebec, Canada) and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Universite Laval (Quebec, Canada), has worked in Latin America, Africa and Asia Pacific. Ms. Blanchet brings extensive new and relevant experience to FDC and will be responsible for managing FDC's work related to microfinance and financial inclusion.

Regards,

Craig Wilson
Executive Director
The Foundation for Development Cooperation

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