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Second Asia Microfinance Forum 2008

The Second Asia Microfinance Forum will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam at the Melia Hanoi Hotel from 26 to 29 August 2008.

This major international event will focus on the latest opportunities to grow microfinance availability through linkages with the financial system, new partnerships and innovative applications of technology.

A call for papers will be distributed shortly. A draft program for the event will be available before the end of 2007.

We are inviting representatives from microfinance institutions, development partners, commercial and central banks, learning institutions, government agencies and private companies interested in becoming involved in the Second International Asia Microfinance Forum to contact us by [email](#) and to preserve these important dates in their 2008 schedules.

The first Asia Microfinance Forum was held in Beijing, China in March 2006 the event was attended by over 250 participants. Further information regarding that event is [available here](#).

Over the coming month's updated information regarding the event will be published in our newsletter and on our website. If you would like to be kept informed about this event, please register your [details here](#).

Capacity Building for Partnerships in Microfinance

Development of the 'Capacity Building for Partnerships in Microfinance' workshop curriculum is currently entering its final stages with an electronic version of the training materials expected to be available online by the 14th of December 2007.

We anticipate that the first workshop on building partnerships in 2008 will be held in Manila, Philippines, in early April. A second workshop for 2008 is also planned for May in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. If you would like to be kept informed about the workshops, please register your interest in your preferred event.

- ❖ [Manila, Philippines - Register](#)
- ❖ [Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - Register](#)

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

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



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BWTP Technical Exchange

- ❖ The BWTP Network, through the technical program, expects to both improve the 'younger' members in the network, and also to build capacity in countries or areas where microfinance practice and industry is less developed. If your organisation is interested in receiving or providing technical assistance, contact us by email at info@bwtp.org. Further details about the program are available from http://www.bwtp.org/Programs/Disseminating_Best_Practices.html.

BWTP Member News

❖ **FMFB client wins the Best Micro-Entrepreneur Award (Pakistan)**

The First MicroFinance Bank's client, Ms. Sifat Gul from Gharam Chashma, Chitral won the "Best National Micro-Entrepreneur Award Female" at the recently organised Citi-PPAF Micro-entrepreneurship Awards 2007 ceremony in Islamabad. Dr. Ishrat Hussain, former Governor State Bank of Pakistan was the Chief Guest for the occasion where Sifat Gul was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 115,000. The objective of the Citi-PPAF Micro-entrepreneurship Awards Programme 2007 is to illustrate and promote the effective role that micro-finance plays in poverty alleviation. It recognises the extraordinary contributions that individual micro-entrepreneurs have made to the economic sustainability of their families as well as their communities. More...

Microfinance News

❖ **FT and IFC launch 2008 Sustainable Banking Awards**

The Financial Times, in partnership with IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, launched the 2008 edition of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards. Two new categories -- Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year -- have been added to the ground-breaking programme. The Awards, now in their third year, were created by the FT and IFC to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations. Applications for the awards close February 29, 2008. Further information regarding the awards is [available here](#).

❖ **The Global Microfinance Investment Congress**

May 14—16, 2008
New York City, USA

The Premier Event for the Leaders in Microfinance
Produced by PlaNNet Finance in association with the American Conference Institute
www.microfinancecongress.com

❖ **eBay-Owned MicroPlace Launches Website for Retail Investment in Microfinance**

MicroPlace, a wholly-owned subsidiary of eBay Inc., recently announced the launch of a new website (www.microplace.com) that provides the first online marketplace for everyday people to invest in microfinance and earn a financial return. With the new site, investors can purchase microfinance securities with as little as \$100 using eBay's PayPal service or a U.S. bank checking account, and have the option to direct their investment to a specific country and microfinance institution in the developing world. [More...](#)

❖ **Opportunity International Australia to Support 1 Million Entrepreneurs in India**

About one million small business owners in India will be given a financial leg-up with microfinance provided by social investment company, Opportunity International Australia. The microfinance provider targets poverty alleviation using a commercial approach. It has raised about \$30 million from Australian donors in the last 12 months, with the money to be used to supply financial loans and business services to budding entrepreneurs across India to help break the poverty cycle. [More..](#)

❖ **Asia/Pacific Region Microcredit Summit to be Relocated and Postponed**

Due to recent events in Pakistan, the Asia/Pacific Region Microcredit Summit will be relocated to another country and postponed. The Microcredit Summit Campaign hopes to announce the new location and exact dates for the Asia/Pacific Region Microcredit Summit 2008 as soon as the information becomes available. For the moment, registration has been suspended until a Registrar in the new location has been established. [More...](#)

Microfinance Publications

❖ **Grameen Foundation Launches Village Phone Direct Manual**

Grameen Foundation and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) have launched the Village Phone Direct Manual to guide microfinance institutions (MFIs) and other organizations in developing microfranchise Village Phone operations. The manual provides MFIs and other organizations with the resources and information they need to independently develop a local, targeted Village Phone product for their clients. [More...](#)

❖ **Finance for All? Policies and Pitfalls in Expanding Access**

A new World Bank policy research report entitled *Finance for All? Policies and Pitfalls in Expanding Access* finds that between 50-80% of adults in many developing countries have inadequate access to financial services. A copy of the report is [available here](#).

❖ **ADB Paper Discusses Role of Government in Access to Finance**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released a new paper discussing different dimensions of the problem of access to finance for low-income people. The paper, by Nimal A. Fernando, ADB's Practice Leader for Microfinance, highlights the diversity of approaches adopted to improve access, providing cross-country experiences in this area. In addition, the paper proposes a number of measures to trigger a more powerful process toward improved access. A copy of the paper is [available here](#).

❖ **Microfinance in Post Conflict Situation: Challenges and Opportunities in Nepal**

This paper written by Mahendra Adhikari a microfinance consultant in Nepal examines conflict and microfinance in Nepal. The paper focuses on both the development of microfinance, the impact of the conflict, and the post conflict challenges and opportunities for microfinance organisations. A copy of the paper is [available here](#).

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