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Second Asia Microfinance Forum 2008

The Banking with the Poor (BWTP) Network, with support from the Citi Foundation, is pleased to announce that 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.

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.

The training materials are one component of a larger BWTP program of activities, which are supported by the Citi Foundation.

During the coming months, detailed information about our 2008 workshops on building partnerships will be published in our newsletter and website. If you would like further information regarding the program and past workshops on this theme, [click here](#).

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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, [click here](#).



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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New BWTP Members

The BWTP network would like to welcome our new members:

- ❖ **[National Development Society](#)** (NDS) (Bangladesh) (PDF 299KB)
National Development Society has been working since 1991 to mobilise rural development through the generation of savings and the provision of credit. NDS has focused on organising rural poor and unemployed men and women helping them to understand the benefits of collectivisations and mobilising local financial resources to generate income, provide employment and raise the standard of living.
- ❖ **[Care India](#)** (India) (PDF 89KB)
Since 1950, CARE has been synonymous with providing relief and development in India. Owing to its well-established infrastructure, CARE is usually the first on the scene with food and other life saving assistance. After independence, when the nascent Indian state was taking tentative steps towards self-sufficiency, CARE worked to support the famine relief work besides seeing the nation through the refugee crises with food resources. In addition, CARE helped the nation to strengthen the food delivery through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

BWTP Member News

❖ **Pakistan Post and The First MicrofinanceBank partner towards poverty alleviation**

During October in Islamabad, an agreement between Pakistan Post and The First MicroFinanceBank was signed at a ceremony held at the PM House. This unique public private partnership between Pakistan Post and The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd will allow rapid scaling up of quality microfinance services to the very poor populations residing in rural and urban Pakistan. Following this agreement the social motive of The First MicroFinanceBank will be merged with the Pakistan Post's commitment to eliminate distances thereby combining the 25 years of microfinance experience of The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd through Age Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) with Pakistan's most well spread distribution network that will benefit the poor living in remotest rural areas of Pakistan. [More...](#)

❖ **ASKI Inked a MOA with Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP)**

Clients and staff of Alalay Sa Kaunlaran (ASKI), Inc. who have financial constraints in building or improving their houses need not to worry because the organisation signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on housing projects. The project was entitled ASKI Program for Housing Livelihood Development (APHold). DBP invested a total of P50M for the said project. The program components are as follows; New Housing Assistance, House Improvement Loan, and Livelihood Project Assistance. [More...](#)

❖ **From job seekers to wealth creators**

Genesis 07', an annual event held in India was aimed at generating interest in entrepreneurship and inspiring students to look upon entrepreneurship as an alternative to seeking employment and as a way to be the creators of wealth, said A. Ramakalyan, Faculty Advisor, Entrepreneurship Cell. One of the motivating speakers at the event was one of our BWTP members Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Founder and Executive Director of Bandhan, a Kolkata-based microfinance organisation working for self-supportive initiatives. [More...](#)

❖ **Business tea with: Chandula Abeywickrema (BWTP Chairman)**

Banking facilities should be extended to the rural areas more aggressively to attract the unbaked community. This would also pave the way to eliminate the middlemen and bring in a better money stream which could be utilised for economic development, said Deputy General Manager Personal Banking and Network Management, Hatton National Bank, Chandula Abeywickrema. Speaking from his spacious office at the HNB Towers yesterday he said the Central Bank should play a more aggressive role in this area and more incentives should be provided for banks venturing into the rural sector. Abeywickrema elaborated his views on the banking industry and providing an insight to the untilled areas of the industry. [More...](#)

Microfinance News

❖ Citi-FT Financial Education Summit

6-7 December 2007

Taj Palace, New Delhi, India

This milestone event will be the largest of its kind aimed at boosting financial literacy, a critical life-skill that can help reduce poverty, stimulate entrepreneurship and wealth creation at all levels of society, and protect consumers and investors in turbulent times. The Summit -- sub-titled Partnerships for Progress and Inclusion -- will discuss ways to advance financial literacy by sharing best practices and showcasing effective multi-sector partnerships. For more information, please visit www.FinancialEducationSummit.org

❖ An International Workshop on Microfinance – ‘Emerging Opportunities and Challenges’

November 19-20, 2007

Colombo, Sri Lanka

The workshop is designed for senior and middle level executives with sufficient experience of working in microfinance area. The focus will be developing insights into the critical issues relating to microfinance. The seminar aims at:

- Examining crucial issues as evident from the past experience.
- Discuss the issues as prevalent in current microfinance situation.
- Analyse the emerging trends and perspective from the futuristic angle.

In short, the purpose is to broaden the perspective and vision of the participants based on analytical presentations, mutual discussions and experience sharing. [More...](#)

❖ CGAP Brief: MFI Capital Structure Decision Making: A Call for Greater Awareness

In August 2007, CGAP and Grameen Foundation recently conducted a survey of MFI managers to better understand MFI capital structure decision-making processes in the face of expanding financing options. This Brief summarises the study's findings and makes recommendations about ways we can work toward optimizing MFI balance sheets. [More...](#)

❖ East Timor: Leveraging Remittances with Microfinance

The Foundation for Development Cooperation recently completed a country study on ‘Leveraging Remittances with Microfinance’. This study was a part of a wider Australian Research Council (ARC) funded six country research project involving Sri Lanka, Philippines, Indonesia, Samoa, Fiji and East Timor. A copy of the East Timor report is [available here](#).

❖ 31 Leading Development Finance Institutions Bring Corporate Governance to the Forefront of Their Mission

Washington, D.C., October 19, 2007 - The leaders of 31 Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) issued today a joint statement that positions corporate governance at the forefront of their sustainable development agenda in emerging markets. This is the first initiative of its kind by the DFIs. It highlights the increased role of good corporate governance as a facilitator of international capital flows to emerging market companies. [More...](#)

❖ Global Network Summit: ‘Powering Connections: The Essence of Networks’

BWTP was invited to attend the Global Network Summit: ‘Powering Connections: The Essence of Networks’, which was a three day summit at the SEEP Network 2007 Annual Conference. Representatives from regional and national networks from around the world gathered to share common challenges and share solutions, learn about the most current issues facing networks today, and strengthen their institutional capacity and service delivery. Jamie Bedson attended the conference as a representative of BWTP and made a presentation of the network’s current capacity building for partnerships programme along with Md. Abdul Awal from BWTP member CDF Bangladesh.

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