

Disseminating Best Practices to Support the Development of Sustainable Microfinance in Asia

Across Asia there is a strong common need to build the capacity of microfinance actors to enable them to manage more efficiently their traditional business of financial service provision. In this context, the BWTP with the support of Citi Foundation has developed a technical assistance program which the Network expects will help both the 'younger' BWTP members in the network, and also to build capacity in countries or areas where microfinance practice and industry is less developed.

The first technical exchange took place in July when Chandula Abeywickema, from Hatton National Bank (HNB) of Sri Lanka provided technical assistance to one of our new members, the Vietnam Bank for Social Policies. This session focused on the Hatton National Bank's Post Office Partnership Program which will see HNB link with government post offices to extend microfinance outreach to remote rural areas of Sri Lanka through the use of smart card technology. For further details regarding the technical assistance program [click here](#).

Linkages and Partnerships in Microfinance Symposium and Workshop in Indonesia

BWTP held the third symposium and workshop on linkages and partnerships in microfinance during September in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The workshop was the third in a series of events planned over the next two years as a part of the BWTP Network's capacity building program in Asia which is sponsored by Citi Foundation.

The workshop aimed to increase the awareness of the partnership approach in microfinance and to build the capacity of financial institutions (formal and informal) and non-financial institutions to partner more effectively.

The event was run over three days and included a symposium, a training course and a special session on Microfinance and Disaster Management.

Further information regarding the first three workshops is available on our website at www.bwtp.org.

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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, email us.



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

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New BWTP Members

The BWTP network would like to welcome our new members:

❖ [National Economic Research Institute](#) (Laos) (PDF 63 KB)

NERI was established in 1997 to assist the Committee for Planning and Investment to carry out macro and micro economic research on socio-economic development strategies, development policies and to provide training to planning officials at all levels. Within this mandate, NERI has developed some core competencies in microfinance through the establishment of the Microfinance Capacity Building and Research (MCBR) project which is actively involved in: coordination and networking, capacity building, regulation development and dissemination and research.

❖ [Global Innovation Consulting](#) (Indonesia) (PDF 72 KB)

GIC was established in 2007 to fulfil the need for a qualified capacity building and technical service provider in Indonesia and Asia. The organisation provides training, technical assistance and capacity building for Microfinance Institutions (including mentoring and coaching).

❖ [Vietnam Bank for Social Policies](#) (Vietnam) (PDF 79 KB)

VBSP is currently the only policy bank in Vietnam and is leading the way in microfinance sector in Vietnam. The bank provides lending for production, business, job creation, safe water and rural environment sanitation. More...

BWTP Member News

❖ **Swanirvar Bangladesh Update**

Swanirvar Bangladesh came into being on the 25th September, 1975 as a formal organization through the joint efforts of the non-Government and Government body. It is a non-political, non-profitable and non-Governmental voluntary social welfare organization at national level committed to socio-economic development activities throughout Bangladesh. [More....](#) (PDF 12 KB)

❖ **Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women: in Motion with Integrated WAN**

This overview examines Shakti Foundation's recent implementation of WAN, which is a computer network capable of covering a relatively large geographical area. By the end of 2003, Shakti Foundation felt the need for this WAN connectivity, as it gradually expanded its number of branches. Due to the dispersion of branches in different regions of Bangladesh, connecting them together centrally was important. [More...](#) (PDF 244 KB)

Microfinance News

❖ **BRAC Bangladesh to Launch US\$90Mn Bond for Agriculture Finance**

BRAC, Bangladesh's leading MFI, is planning to launch a Tk 700 crore (US\$90Mln) bond in an effort to increase financing to the agricultural sector. The MFI expects to issue the BRAC Bond for Agricultural Funding, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, by December 2007 or early January 2008. [More...](#)

❖ **Global Survey on Staff Incentive Schemes for MFIs**

MicroFinance Network (MFN), in collaboration with CGAP, is conducting its second global survey on staff incentive schemes (SIS). The survey aims to: help MFIs evaluate and improve their SIS; identify best practices for SIS design.

All participating MFIs will receive a customized benchmark report that compares the effects and design of their SIS against peer MFIs. To participate in the online please [click here](#).

❖ **CGAP Brief: Using Technology to Build Inclusive Financial Systems**

In April 2006, CGAP published a brief which examines the innovative use of information and communications technologies to process small transactions and deliver a wide range of financial services which may help to make microfinance institutions (MFIs) more efficient and commercial banks more interested in serving poor people. [More...](#)

❖ **New Publication: FDC Briefing Note**

FDC is pleased to announce the launch of the new publication series, FDC Briefing Note. This series of publications will focus on innovative issues in international development and will be published at least on a quarterly basis.

The first two in the series include:

1. [Electronic Banking with the Poor - Opportunities and Implications for Microfinance Providers](#) authored by Stuart Mathison (Head - Technology Initiatives).
2. [Energy Lending: Microfinance and Access to Modern, Alternative Energies](#) authored by Jamie Bedson (Program Officer).

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