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**Asia Microfinance Forum 2008**

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. The Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 is being held in association with PlaNet Finance Group and the European Union, and in collaboration with the State Bank of Vietnam. This milestone event will bring together around 300 leading microfinance practitioners, policy-makers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas and opportunities.

The Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 formally commences on the evening of Tuesday, 26 August 2008, and concludes on the afternoon of Friday, 29 August 2008. A number of pre-event activities and meetings will take place on Monday, 25 August 2008, and Tuesday, 26 August 2008. A number of parallel events will also take place during the course of Asia Microfinance Forum 2008.

The theme for the conference will be:  
**Microfinance in the 21st Century:  
Future Trends & Opportunities**

Registration for the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 has now closed and invitation letters have been distributed by email. If you have registered for the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 and have not yet received a copy of the official invitation letter by email, please contact us by email at [info@bwtp.org](mailto:info@bwtp.org).

A summary program for the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 is now available from: [http://www.bwtp.org/files/Events/AMF2008/program/AMF2008\\_Draft\\_Summary\\_Program.pdf](http://www.bwtp.org/files/Events/AMF2008/program/AMF2008_Draft_Summary_Program.pdf)

An advisory note for the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 has also been released. The document contains important about accommodation and travel information for delegates attending the event. A copy of the document is available from [http://www.bwtp.org/files/Events/AMF2008/travel/AMF2008\\_Advisory\\_Note.pdf](http://www.bwtp.org/files/Events/AMF2008/travel/AMF2008_Advisory_Note.pdf)

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The BWTP Network is an initiative of [The Foundation for Development Cooperation](http://www.fdc.org)

The [Citi Foundation](http://www.citifoundation.com) is a supporter of the BWTP Network.



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## BWTP Microfinance and Disaster Management

- ❖ In the wake of the recent devastating earthquake in China's Sichuan Province and the cyclone in Myanmar, the BWTP Network and Citi would like to highlight the availability of the Microfinance and Disaster Management Training Manual which may be of use to organisations facing the prospect of natural disasters.

The Microfinance and Disaster Management Training Manual is part of a capacity-building program funded by the Citi Foundation which is designed to help microfinance institutions develop strategies for disaster preparedness, and to respond more effectively in the wake of a natural disaster.

These resources can be accessed and used free of charge via the BWTP website. BWTP seeks to monitor the use of the resources, so we ask that you register your details. The resources are currently available in six languages, including (simplified) Chinese.

The **Microfinance and Disaster Management Website** is available via the "Training Resources" link at: <http://www.bwtp.org/microfinance-and-disaster-management.html>

## BWTP Member News

- ❖ **Citibank provides USD10 million credit facility to ASA**

Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh and ASA recently signed a credit facility agreement for microfinance portfolio expansion in rural Bangladesh. According to this agreement, Citibank will provide USD 10 million in equivalent local currency to ASA, one of the world's leading Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, Founder and President of ASA and Mamun Rashid, Managing Director and Citi Country Officer, Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations. The financing will allow ASA, to diversify its funding sources and also disburse more funds to a larger number of micro entrepreneurs, reinforcing ASA's determination in helping the development of the micro-credit sector. [More...](#)

- ❖ **2007 Mix Asia 100: Ranking of Microfinance Institutions**

BWTP would like to congratulate all of our members that were listed in the recently released 2007 Mix Asia 100 report. The report ranked MFIs in nine categories which include: number of borrowers, number of depositors, scale, market penetration, growth, profitability, efficiency, productivity and portfolio quality. A copy of the complete report is [available here](#).

Members listed in the report include: BRI, DIMAN, ASKI, KMBI, TSPI, VBSP, ASA, BEES, Sajida, Shakti, Bandhan, BWDA, CSD, FMFB - Pakistan, SAFWCO, Lak Jaya, SEEDS and Sewa Finance.

- ❖ **Financial Times Banking Awards - 2008 Winners**

Banking with the Poor Network would like to congratulate ASA for winning the Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid category of the 2008 Financial Times Banking Awards. [More...](#)

- ❖ **Update on CSD's Microfinance Program**

Centre for Self-help Development (CSD), a Financial Intermediary Non Government Organization (FINGO), provides an update on their microfinance program that has been implemented in the hill districts Arghakhanchi and Dhading in Nepal. [More...](#)

## Microfinance News

- ❖ **ADB Quarterly Microfinance Newsletter: Finance for the Poor**  
The ADB newsletter features articles and news relating to microfinance activities in Asia and the Pacific. The latest edition features two interesting articles. The first article by Arup Chatterjee the Principal Administrator of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors focuses on the challenges encountered in developing enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for microinsurance. The second article written by Jamie Bedson, The Foundation for Development Cooperation's Asia Regional Representative, examines microfinance partnerships. [More...](#)
- ❖ **Code of Ethics to be Established in Microfinance**  
NEW YORK, May 19, 2008 At the initiative of Deutsche Bank, The Boulder Institute, and CGAP, leaders of microfinance institutions, investors, banks and development agencies gathered in New York to develop a common ground and set of principles that would help microfinance navigate between commercialization and its social mission. The Pocantico Declaration is the first step toward a code of conduct that could distinguish microfinance from other providers of financial services who lack the social motivation that drives the microfinance industry. [More...](#)
- ❖ **IFC Training Helps Build Housing Finance Market in Pakistan**  
Islamabad, Pakistan, May 26, 2008—In cooperation with IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, the State Bank of Pakistan has successfully completed a mortgage training program for local bankers to help build their capacity and improve housing finance services to low- and middle-income people. [More...](#)
- ❖ **Boulder-Bergamo Forum on Access to Financial Services: Expanding the Rural Frontier**  
September 18th-20th, 2008  
University of Bergamo – Italy  
Registration Fee: € 400 Euros  
  
The Boulder Institute of Microfinance in partnership with the University of Bergamo has designed a forum to bring together leading academic researchers with a group of key policy makers who guide government programs. We want to bring the best current research to the table and have the type of dialogue that shapes the direction of future inquiry in a way that that is most relevant to decision makers. The primary purpose of this inaugural conference is to shorten the cycle between ideas, innovations, rigorous research, and its practical applications on policies, with the final goal of expanding the delivery and access of financial services to poor people. This year's conference focuses on the special challenges of delivering and expanding the frontier for rural finance and is supported by the Rural Finance Program at The Ohio State University. [More...](#)
- ❖ **Government has Philippines 80 Billion Pesos Available for Microfinance in 2008**  
Presidential Management Staff Secretary Cerge Remonde said the government has P80 billion available for microfinance programs this year and is in need of partners for its dispersal. Remonde was in Bacolod with Presidential Spokesman Anthony Golez and Noel Poso, vice president of the People's Credit and Finance Corp., to talk about microfinance opportunities and entrepreneurship with the Citizens Movement for Good Government, a local group. [More...](#)

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