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**November 2008, Issue 15**

**Global Network Summit**

**4 - 7 November 2008  
Washington DC USA**

Chandula Abeywickrema, Banking With The Poor Chairman, Md. Abdul Awal, Executive Committee member (in his CDF Director capacity) and Jamie Bedson, BWTP Lead Coordinator attended the Global Network Summit, CNSP Roundtable and SEEP Annual Conference in Washington DC from the 4 – 7 November 2008.

The Global Network Summit convened by the SEEP Network was the largest gathering of country-level and regional microfinance networks since the launch of the event in 1999. The event was attended by sixty four representative from forty three different networks from ninety three different countries.

Key sessions for the event included:

- ❖ Global Strategy to Measure Success of Microfinance Associations
- ❖ Investment Readiness
- ❖ How can Networks Support their MFI Partners' Quest for Social Performance Management
- ❖ Achieving Network Sustainability with Strategic Planning and Financial Management

The BWTP Network representatives also attended the Citi Network Strengthening Roundtable which was attended by the twelve networks, Citi Foundation representatives and was facilitated by the SEEP Network.

The CNSP Roundtable provided an opportunity for the BWTP Network to provide a brief presentation outlining the most significant achievements for this year and to outline expected achievements for the next year.

The Global Network Summit and the CNSP Roundtable provided the Network with an excellent opportunity to learn more about the work of other networks and provide some important learning opportunities; but also highlighted the great amount of work that lies ahead for the BWTP network.

A summary of the event is available from:  
<http://networks.seepnetwork.org/en/node/1594>

Further details about the Global Network Summit are available from: <http://networks.seepnetwork.org/en/node/1394>

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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.org) is a supporter of the BWTP Network.



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## Capacity Building for Partnerships in Microfinance Trainer's Manual CDROM

The Banking With the Poor Network and the Foundation for Development Cooperation recently announced the CD ROM publication of the Capacity Building for Partnerships in Microfinance - Trainer's Manual.

These materials were first published online in December 2007. Since then, the free online curriculum has been requested by a wide array of NGO, educational, private and government sector institutions for training across the Asia region and internationally. The BWTP Network is now pleased to be able to offer the CD ROM format for purchase which includes the entire curriculum on one CD. Further information about the training materials is available from:

<http://www.bwtp.org/capacity-building-for-partnerships-in-microfinance.html>

The Capacity Building for Partnerships in Microfinance Trainer's Manual in CD ROM format is recommended for those interested in undertaking training workshops, or looking for material to incorporate into existing capacity building activities.

An order form for the CD ROM is available from: [http://bwtp.org/files/Capacity\\_Building/s-Manual-Order-Form.pdf](http://bwtp.org/files/Capacity_Building/s-Manual-Order-Form.pdf) . Please email the order form to [info@fdc.org.au](mailto:info@fdc.org.au) or fax to +61 7 3846 0342 .

## Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 - Review of Outcomes

The BWTP Network would like to hear of any opportunities for delegates which may have arisen due to participation in the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam. To this end, the Network will shortly be sending out a questionnaire asking for details of any partnerships, successful funding or networking opportunities or other continuing collaborative relationships which has formed as a result of attendance at the Forum. In the meantime, we would also be pleased to hear from any attendees with stories to tell from the Forum. These can be sent to the Secretariat at [info@btwp.org](mailto:info@btwp.org).

## BWTP Member News

- ❖ **RMDC Organised Interaction Workshop of the Board of Directors of Partner MFIs**  
On 17-18 November 2008, RMDC organised a workshop for sixty-nine members from the Boards of Director from its partner microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Eastern Nepal. The objective of the workshop was to improve the participants knowledge and skills in governing their organisations. The participants were from MFIs, which have been implementing microfinance programs for years but needed assistance in the areas of governance and management.  
  
During the two day program, participants shared their experiences and discussed issues and challenges currently facing their organisations. Interactive sessions held during the workshop included: essentials of microfinance, financial viability and sustainability of MFI operations, understanding and analysing financial statements (balance sheets, income statement, portfolio report), and the major roles and responsibilities of the board members in the development of MFIs. Additionally, three case studies related to fraud were discussed. Participants feedback identified how the program has helped enhance their microfinance knowledge and in their roles as members of boards. The program was facilitated by Chief Executive Officer Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha and other senior officials of RMDC.
- ❖ **Vietnam Bank for Social Policies (VBSP) - Awards**  
Vietnam Bank for Social Policies, General Director Ha Thi Hanh was recently recognised as one of eight individuals to receive the honour award for her great contribution to the success of the business and for the socio-economic development achievements for the community. The award also acknowledged Madam Hanh's role in poverty issues and more broadly VBSP in general.

VBSP also received the honour of the State Order for its successful five year operations. The organisation was acknowledged by the Government and the people for its contribution to poverty reduction in Vietnam over the past five years. VBSP now has a nation-wide network and mobile transaction system to access all communes and has fourteen well run lending programmes. The recognition of VBSP highlights the important role that the organisation undertakes in poverty reduction and its broader commitment to poverty reduction globally.

❖ **Centre for Self-help Development (CSD) - Microfinance Update**

The Centre for Self-help Development provides an update on its microfinance program Self-help Banking Program (SBP). The program has been providing its microfinance service to more than thirty eight thousand women from various regions within Nepal. [More...](#)

## Microfinance News

❖ **Global Finance Initiative Survey: Designing a Future Global Finance System**

The Global Finance Initiative (GFI) over a year began an inquiry into the governance and organisation of the global financial "system". GFI is currently seeking organisations to complete a survey to help define how to move ahead in the medium-long term and who should be engaged in deciding how to move ahead. GFI is also seeking survey participants to help describe current and potential relations to better define a strategy for moving ahead. The survey is available from: <http://www.gan-net.net/gfisurvey>

❖ **CGAP Virtual Conference: Microfinance and the Financial Crisis**

During November, CGAP hosted an online discussion on the impact of the financial crisis on microfinance, the virtual conference was attended by over 600 participants from thirty four countries. A summary of the event is available [here](#).

❖ **FDC Briefing Note: Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Microfinance**

Summary: The current global financial crisis has led to a significant decrease in international capital available to the microfinance sector. This decrease in capital inflow is adversely affecting the microfinance sector's ability to achieve existing revenue and expansion targets. But microfinance may be less adversely affected by increases in global capital illiquidity than many other business sectors. A copy of the FDC Briefing Note - November 2008 is available from: <http://www.fdc.org.au/files/Publications/FDC-Briefing-Note-Nov-08.pdf>

❖ **Microcredit Summit E-News: Addressing the Global Financial Crisis and Fluctuating Food and Fuel Costs**

The Microcredit Summit Campaign asked microfinance leaders (MF) and investors to respond to a series of questions on the global financial crisis and fluctuating food and fuel costs. A copy of there responses are available from: <http://www.microcreditsummit.org/enews/index.html>

❖ **Apply for Microinsurance Research Grants**

Microinsurance Innovation Facility and the European Development Research Network (EUDN) are inviting academic researchers to submit proposals for research that will contribute new knowledge to support microinsurance development in developing countries. Over the next four years the Facility will offer 40 small research grants (US\$10,000) for academics mostly in developing countries for focused research initiatives. [More....](#)

### Contact Us

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