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**Citi-FT Financial Education Summit 2008**

**China World Hotel, Beijing  
25-26 November**

This timely Summit – sub-titled **Reducing Financial Vulnerability: Innovation & Impact** –will be a unique forum to share best practices in developing, delivering and evaluation financial literacy initiatives from around the world. The Summit will showcase specific programmes targeting youth, mainstream consumers, marginalised communities, investors and other key segments. Building on the success of previous Summits in Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea and India, the fifth Financial Education Summit in Beijing will be one of the largest and most significant international gatherings of financial education experts and advocates ever held, with more than 300 representatives of financial institutions, government agencies, multilateral bodies, non-governmental organisations, educational groups and private business—from China, Asia Pacific and beyond.

*In recognition of your affiliation with FDC, which is a supporting partner of the event, you can benefit from a special delegate rate of US\$350, which is a saving of more than 25% off the regular delegate rate. To enjoy this rate, please quote 'FESFDC' on the registration form.*

**To register and for more information, please contact Jane Wu:**

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Website: [www.FinancialEducationSummit.org](http://www.FinancialEducationSummit.org)

**Asia Microfinance Forum 2008**

The Banking With the Poor Network (BWTP) and the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC), with funding from the Citi Foundation, convened the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam, from August 26 -29, 2008. This milestone event brought together over 500 leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world who outlined their visions and priorities, and explored new ideas and opportunities.

The theme for the conference was: Microfinance in the 21st Century: Future Trends & Opportunities.

Presentations from the event are available from:  
<http://www.bwtp.org/amf-presentations-2008.html>

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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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## Asia Network Summit

The Banking with the Poor Network hosted the inaugural Asia Network Summit (ANS) in Hanoi, Vietnam on the 25th August 2008. The ANS was attended by eighteen national microfinance networks from seventeen countries. This Asia Network Summit was held in collaboration with the SEEP Network, with funding support from ADA Microfinance Expertise, as an activity of the Citi Network Strengthening Program funded by the Citi Foundation.

The ANS focused on several issues central to the work of microfinance, including social performance management, on the issue of Social Performance Management, Membership and Member Services, Governance and Financial Literacy. Additionally, networks from the region were given the opportunity to hear from established international networks from Eastern Europe and Ethiopia'. [More....](#)

## BWTP Annual General Meeting

The BWTP Network held its Annual General Meeting on 26 August 2008 at the Asia Microfinance Forum in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Annual General Meeting was attended by members from twenty-two member institutions and it provided an opportunity for members to interact at what was a very successful event in Hanoi.

### ❖ **New BWTP Executive Committee Member**

One of the main outcomes of the Annual General Meeting was the election of two new members to the BWTP Network Executive Committee. The BWTP Network would like to welcome to the Executive Committee Ms Syeda Obaida Haque who is Director, Program, Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women Bangladesh ([www.sfdw.org](http://www.sfdw.org)) and Md. Abdul Awal, Director Credit and Development Forum Bangladesh ([www.cdfbd.org](http://www.cdfbd.org)). Both Ms Obaida and Md. Awal bring a wealth of knowledge to the Executive Committee through their extensive experiences of the microfinance sector.

### ❖ **BWTP Network Constitution**

An updated constitution was presented to members and following a discussion of the changes unanimously adopted. The amended constitution has been posted on the BWTP Network website and is available from: <http://www.bwtp.org/Constitution-of-The-Banking-With-The-Poor-Network.html>

## Vietnam Industry Assessment

This assessment was completed as a Banking with the Poor Network (BWTP Network) activity within the Citi Network Strengthening Program, in collaboration with the SEEP Network and funded by the Citi Foundation.

The Citi Network Strengthening Program supports the development of Industry Assessments for national and regional level networks. The purpose of the BWTP Network Industry Assessments is to provide an overview of the microfinance sectors in which the BWTP Network operates. These assessments aim to extend beyond the performance of individual institutions, and focus on the development of the microfinance market as a whole by being both descriptive and analytical in nature. The aim of these assessments is to provide an outlook on each industry that is a valuable resource to the BWTP Network, its members and the wider microfinance community.

The Vietnam Industry Assessment is a review of the microfinance sector in Vietnam, and constitutes a new contribution to the BWTP Network's Asia Resource Center for Microfinance. This assessment builds on a country profile completed by the BWTP Network in 2006. The Vietnam Industry Assessment is based on research conducted from a desk study, as well as contributions resulting from meetings with key stakeholders and practitioners in Vietnam in June and July 2008 in Vietnam. A copy of the industry assessment is available from: [http://www.bwtp.org/files/Resources/Industry\\_Assesment/BWTP-Vietnam-Industry\\_Assessment-2008.pdf](http://www.bwtp.org/files/Resources/Industry_Assesment/BWTP-Vietnam-Industry_Assessment-2008.pdf)

## BWTP Member News

- ❖ **Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank (SB Bank)**  
BWTP member Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank from Nepal, provides an update of the banks current operations, focusing on: outreach, staff, loan portfolio, clients deposits and performance indicators. [More...](#)
- ❖ **CORDAID Goes Studying Group Lending in MFIs**  
During February and March, MICRA's research and innovation team in coordination with CORDAID conducted a feasibility study on the implementation of group lending for an MFI in Gresik and Madiun, East Java. The goal of the study was to provide an overview and to compare the different microfinance group lending methodologies implemented in the Indonesian market for BPR (rural banks). [More....](#)



## Microfinance News

- ❖ **Global Credit Crunch – The Impact on Microfinance**  
In light of the ongoing international financial sector crisis, FDC is preparing a FDC Briefing Note for publication in mid-November 2008 which will explore the effects of this on international debt and equity investment in the microfinance industry.
- ❖ **Mix Employment Opportunity - Regional Manager, Asia**  
MIX is launching a search for a regional manager to cover their work in Asia. This person will be central to consolidating the MIX's coverage across the region through existing partners and to building out coverage in new and underrepresented markets. Further details regarding this position are available from: [http://www.themix.org/job\\_detail.aspx?jobID=13](http://www.themix.org/job_detail.aspx?jobID=13)
- ❖ **First Global Online Remittance Database**  
The World Bank Group has published the first global database of remittance prices that is expected to benefit low-income migrant workers and households in developing countries. The database provides information on 120 remittance corridors. It aims to make pricing more transparent and put competitive pressure on remittance service providers to improve services and reduce prices. In 2007, recorded remittances flows worldwide were US\$337 billion, of which US\$251 billion went to developing countries. For many migrant workers, the cost of these transactions is high relative to their incomes and the amounts sent. [More...](#)
- ❖ **Micro-Insurance Industry Leaders and UBmatrix Form Consortium to Improve Efficiency of Micro-Insurance Market**  
During October, seven organisations including leading players in the micro-insurance industry launched the Micro-insurance Data and Workflow Standardization (MDWS) Consortium to explore the benefits of establishing a new XBRL-based taxonomy and information hub designed to streamline and standardise information exchange in the micro-insurance industry. [More...](#)

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