



FDC

THE FOUNDATION FOR
Development Cooperation

IN FOCUS

FDC'S QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- P1 FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- P2 SPOTLIGHT AUSTRALIA'S AID REVIEW
- P3 PACIFIC MICROFINANCE WEEK 2011
- P4 FDC FACES: JULIA SYMONS
- P4 FDC WORKBENCH
- P5 FDC SUPPORTS Citi-FT FINANCIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT

From the Executive Director, Sean Rooney

Over the past 20 years, the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) has developed a strong reputation for leadership in international development thought and practice in the Asia-Pacific region.

Through the vision and philanthropy of Bill Taylor AO, FDC was created in Australia in 1990 as an independent organisation to marshal and leverage the collective private sector, academic, NGO/ community and government resources, know how and will to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in our region.

Building on our solid foundations, we have reflected on past achievements, considered future development trends, and assessed the needs of the region. Subsequently, we have refreshed our strategic focus to realise greater impact.

Mission

FDC is an independent Australian Foundation committed to enabling better development outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region through *collaboration* and *innovation*.

Our mission is to harness and leverage the collective skills, knowledge, resources and passion of organisations from across the public, private, NGO and academic sectors in order to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in developing nations in our region.

We achieve this by researching, piloting and promoting collaborative and innovative market-based approaches to international development.

Specifically we focus effort and resources on four distinct, yet inter-related themes:

1. Private sector partnerships for sustainable development
2. Local economies, enterprise and livelihoods
3. Financial inclusion
4. Payments for ecosystem services for poverty alleviation

Within each theme we undertake three types of activities:

- conducting **research** on theme-specific issues, challenges and opportunities
- conceiving, designing, conducting and evaluating on-the-ground partnership **pilot projects** that test innovative approaches to development
- providing **development services** including advisory and consulting; network coordination; and training; enabling local partners and development practitioners to deliver better development outcomes.

In addition to these, we also undertake activities in two other broader, yet equally important areas:

- Emerging Issues Research – exploring development issues of importance to our region
- Outreach Activities - sharing knowledge and insight from our operations in order to inform development policy, programs and practices

Our approach

The key components of our approach include *collaboration*, *innovation*, *systems thinking*, *market-based solutions* and *learning*. Putting *our approach into action*, we utilise thinking, practices and tools at the forefront of international development in order to



Sean Rooney, FDC Executive Director.

identify, conceive, plan, deliver and evaluate all of our activities and work with other recognised development 'thought and practice' leaders from across governments, businesses, NGOs and academia.

OUR MISSION IS TO ... ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE IN DEVELOPING NATIONS IN OUR REGION THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION.

Sean Rooney, FDC Executive Director.

Summary

FDC looks forward to building on our reputation and track record of achievement through our revised strategic focus. We embrace the challenges and opportunities that our renewed strategy presents. As we progress, we invite others from across all sectors to join with us in working to make a real difference in alleviating poverty and disadvantage in our region. ●

[Click here to read the complete FDC Strategy Overview.](#)

Spotlight on the Independent Review of Australia's Aid Effectiveness

The first [independent review](#) of Australian aid since 1996 was delivered in April this year, with Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd announcing in July that the Government had agreed to 38 of its 39 recommendations.

With Australia committing to increase its aid expenditure to 0.5% of Gross National Income by 2015, the findings of the Review will shape the future of Australia's aid program.

FDC contributed to the Aid Review through a [submission](#) that focused on competencies and practices for aid effectiveness and identified emerging focus areas, based on over two decades of development experience in the Asia-Pacific region. We were pleased to see that the final Review recommendations addressed several issues raised in FDC's submission.

Contributing to policy discussions around aid and development are an important aspect of FDC's efforts to synthesise and distil knowledge and insight from our projects and programs across the region.

Many of the findings and recommendations of the review reflected FDC's themes and areas of focus from our recently refreshed [Strategy...Overview](#). Specifically, FDC welcomes: the renewed focus on poverty alleviation through pro-poor, sustainable economic growth and private sector development; the need to harness the power of business and to foster a culture of innovation, and; the recognition of the links between gender equality and economic development opportunities for women.

Here, we discuss these synergies presented in the Review and how they impact FDC and the Australian aid program.

The importance of partnerships

The Review acknowledged the need to pursue more effective relationships with current partners, and to look to new partnerships with the private sector and community groups.

Given FDC's focus and experience in cross-sector partnerships amongst the public, private, NGO and academic sectors, we were pleased to see emphasis placed on partnerships as an integral mode of delivery of effective aid. Effective partnerships, whilst challenging to form, can provide opportunities for shared learnings, savings of time, money and resources, and a vehicle through

which a variety of stakeholders can share their skills and expertise to realise better development outcomes through new and innovative approaches.

FDC has internationally accredited expertise in cross-sector partnerships for sustainable development and a strong track record in designing, brokering and managing effective partnerships.

Collaboration with the private sector

Engaging the private sector in both aid recipient countries and donor countries was highlighted in Recommendations 9 and 10 as a crucial factor for the success of aid delivery. The Review suggested that although private sector engagement already takes place, there is scope to significantly expand and build on these relationships.

The review also suggested that Australia's aid program should consider creating a mechanism to introduce Australian businesses to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and/or inclusive business opportunities in developing countries, areas that FDC is already exploring with its private sector partners.

FDC works to leverage its private sector knowledge and resources in designing and piloting cross-sector partnerships for sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region. This includes working with key sectors including the resources, energy, ICT and financial services.

Embracing innovation and its risks

FDC was pleased to see the acknowledgement of the importance of innovation in delivering aid to help tackle global challenges.

Recommendation 33 of the Review states that "there should be a greater focus on results and reward for innovation and acceptance that in a big program some activities will fail." This highlights an opportunity for AusAID to promote innovative approaches to development, based on the understanding that innovation comes with greater risk, but also greater returns.

Similarly, FDC acknowledges that traditional approaches to international development only go so far, which in practice means responding in new and inventive ways to development challenges. This involves conceiving, designing, testing, evaluating and sharing new approaches

to international development.

FDC and the future

FDC welcomes the opportunities presented by the findings of the Aid Review and the Australian Government's response. The challenges we face in enabling better development outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region can be overcome through meaningful collaboration and innovation. This is demonstrated in FDC's track record of achievement over a 21 year period, and reflected in projects currently underway and in the pipeline across our regional locations.

Given the significant growth of Australia's aid program in coming years, FDC seeks to work with like-minded partners across all sectors to deliver innovative, sustainable development programs across our region that will alleviate poverty and disadvantage, provide benefits for partners, and inform future development policies, programs and practices. ●

FACTS AND FIGURES

21 years since FDC was founded by Bill Taylor AO in Brisbane, Australia.

15 FDC staff across our Brisbane, Singapore and Suva offices.

63 members in FDC's Asian microfinance network, Banking With The Poor.

28 participants at the first MAD Together Workshop in Suva, Fiji in September.

150 attendees at Pacific Microfinance Week Conference, held in Vanuatu in July.

Pacific Microfinance Week 2011

Pacific Microfinance Week 2011 (PMW2011) was convened by the Microfinance Pasifika Network and organised by the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) with AusAID, the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme and the International Finance Corporation as Lead Sponsors.

The event took place in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 26th to 29th July 2011, bringing together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates as partners in achieving greater financial inclusion in the Pacific. The overall theme of the event was 'Financial Inclusion – Partnerships and New Opportunities to Build a Brighter Financial Future'. The Pacific microfinance sector continues to experience unprecedented growth despite the challenges of the recent financial crisis. Its relative strength throughout the economic downturn has highlighted the central role of microfinance in ensuring that poor and low-income people have access to reliable financial services.

However, greater financial inclusion is dependent upon the microfinance sector increasing its capacity to provide innovative, well-structured and appropriate services and to scale up across all countries. The event addressed issues related to financial inclusion in the microfinance industry, as well as workshops that sought to further contribute to the knowledge of microfinance practitioners.



TOP LEFT: Julian McCabe - Fern Software, Erik Aelbers - ADB, Cheri Taylor FDC, Kalin Radev – Software Group BG Ltd; **TOP RIGHT:** Tillman Bruett - Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme; **BOTTOM LEFT:** Michael Crowe, Shawn Hunter, Cheri Taylor, Bob Lyon, Sean Rooney FDC; **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Governor Odo Tevi -Reserve Bank of Vanuatu.

Pacific Microfinance Week Supporters



THE PACIFIC MICROFINANCE SECTOR CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH DESPITE THE CHALLENGES OF THE RECENT FINANCIAL CRISIS.

Three main themes covered in the conference included:

- Global trends and the future of microfinance
- Expanding outreach to low income, disadvantaged and rural clients
- Donors and regulators: Building an inclusive financial system

Experts working in these fields spoke on various topics within these themes. For a full event summary including speaker presentations, audio clips, session guidelines and sponsor profiles, visit www.microfinance-pasifika.org. For further information on the Microfinance Pasifika Network please contact [Michael Crowe](mailto:Michael.Crowe@fdc.org.vu).



TOP LEFT: Maureen Webber, Caribbean Microfinance Alliance; **TOP RIGHT:** Kerry Burrridge NZAID, Gary Wiseman UNDP Pacific Centre, Bob Lyon FDC, Permanent Secretary Govind Sami - Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji; **BOTTOM LEFT:** Governor Tevi – RBV, Simon Tiwok - RBV, Abbas Akhtar PFIP, Michael McCaffrey PFIP; **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Bob Lyon FDC, Sean Rooney FDC.

FDC Faces: Julia Symons, Suva Office

Julia Symons joined the FDC Suva office in August as part of a one year placement with the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program, an Australian Government, AusAID initiative.

Julia's background in corporate communications and corporate social responsibility, coupled with a keen interest in international development, led her to apply for the volunteer communications role in FDC's Suva office. Julia will be with FDC working on various communications projects for FDC's team in Brisbane, Fiji and Singapore.

"Applying to the AYAD program was something I had wanted to do for a long time, so when the opportunity presented itself to take a year of leave from my role at Macquarie Group in Sydney and come to Fiji with FDC, I jumped at the chance.

I had no idea what to expect of life in Suva. Adjusting to the pace and approach to life here was a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Sydney, but I have definitely embraced the change. Fiji is a diverse country of kind people

and stunning natural beauty and I hope to see as much of it as I can in the year to come.

My role at FDC is challenging and varied everyday. Moving from the financial sector to the development sector has required a completely different mindset, knowledge base and use of language. However the basics remain the same - creating clear, concise communication tools to help our stakeholders understand who we are, what we do and how we achieve our goals.

FDC is an exciting place to work and no two days are the same. From website development, to workshop delivery, the creation of new communications materials for external stakeholders and research on development issues, there are a myriad of FDC projects going on at any one time involving stakeholders from around the world.

I'm looking forward to the opportunities and challenges of the coming year. If the first two months here at FDC Suva are anything to go by, it is set to be a great journey.



JULIA SYMONS, FDC COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

... CREATING CLEAR, CONCISE COMMUNICATION TOOLS TO HELP OUR STAKEHOLDERS UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

JULIA SYMONS, FDC SUVA OFFICE

For further information on FDC Communications please contact [Julia Symons](#).

FDC Workbench

Minerals Council of Australia and FDC

FDC is working with the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) to undertake a review of the Council's 'Enduring Value' Framework - the Australian mining sector's framework for sustainable development.

This review considers new evidence and emergent international frameworks, standards and expectations with regards to the mining sector and sustainable development.

FDC is providing a rigorous critique of the Enduring Value framework, with practical recommendations for the sector to move forward based on international trends, industry best-practice and emergent sustainable development thought and practice. The review report will be delivered in October by Sean Rooney and Ryan Edwards, FDC's specialists in sustainability, and natural resources and development, respectively.

For further information on the MCA review contact [Sean Rooney](#).

MAD Together Workshop in Fiji

With an innovative partnership approach to addressing poverty and disadvantage in Fiji, *Making a Difference Together* (MAD Together) is designed to bring organisations from across the private, NGO and public sectors together to build the capacity and capability of selected local NGOs. MAD Together will see the design and delivery of cross-sector partnership projects in communities to address local sustainable development issues, whilst enabling these NGOs to be more effective in delivering their services.

FDC recently hosted an initial workshop with all potential partners to collectively explore the MAD Together concept, test an appropriate delivery model and gain commitment across partners to work together. With constructive and promising feedback from all potential partners, further foundations are currently being laid for what promises to be an innovative and exciting project for all involved.

For further information on MAD Together please contact [Michael Crowe](#).

Banking With The Poor Network

The Banking with The Poor Network (BWTP) is Asia's regional microfinance association, consisting of a diverse range of microfinance stakeholders committed to improving the quality of life of the poor through promoting and facilitating their access to sustainable financial services.

BWTP Network provides a wide range of services like workshops, policy advocacy and capacity building training as ways of strengthening microfinance institutions to have a broader outreach and enable them to improve their efficiency. BWTP Network also has an active online community.

You can get involved in the following ways:

- Receive our free [Newsletter](#)
- Be a fan in [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Twitter](#)
- Join our discussions on [LinkedIn](#)

For further information on BWTP please contact [Erlijn Sie](#).

FDC supports the 2011 Citi-FT Financial Education Summit, Jakarta

The 2011 Citi-FT Financial Education Summit will be held at Hotel Mulia, Jakarta from 28-29 November.

Now in its eighth year, the Citi-FT Financial Education Summit has become the most established annual international forum on financial literacy.

The theme for this year's conference is *Empowering the Disadvantaged: Inclusive and Innovative Approaches to Financial Capability*.

The 2011 Summit in Indonesia will focus on the importance of financial education for people at the Base of the Pyramid, and the need for greater innovation and collaboration among stakeholders to make faster progress in boosting financial capability and financial inclusion.

The aim of the Summit is to increase the uptake of financial education initiatives at grassroots levels - especially those designed for micro-entrepreneurs, migrant workers, and low-income youth - and explore the use of technology and media in scaling programs and reducing the cost of delivery.

The roles of national frameworks and multi-stakeholder partnerships in addressing large-scale financial capability and consumer protection needs will also be addressed.

Join more than 250 representatives of non-profit organisations, financial institutions, government agencies/regulators, multilateral institutions, microfinance institutions, consumer advocacy groups, educational organisations and private business - from Indonesia, Asia Pacific and beyond - for this milestone event.

Simultaneous interpretation in Bahasa Indonesia and English will be provided for all sessions.

For more information on the Summit, please contact +852 2905 5515, email FinEdSummit@ft.com or go to the [Summit website](#). •

Collaboration in action

Want to learn more about FDC? Interested in getting involved as a partner? Want to discuss an innovative, collaborative idea for a development project in the Asia-Pacific region?

We welcome feedback and comments from all stakeholders and look forward to hearing from you. Please contact FDC using the details provided or email us at info@fdc.org.au

- **Australia Brisbane Office**
FDC House, 137 Melbourne Street
SOUTH BRISBANE, 4101 QLD
Tel: +61 7 3217 2924
- **Asia Singapore Office**
20 Jalan Afifi, #04-09 Certis Cisco
Centre II SINGAPORE 409179
Tel: + 65 6438 4112
- **Pacific Suva Office**
6 MacGregor Road Suva,
Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 3100 855

FDC thanks its Probono Supporters

CLAYTON UTZ

Deloitte.

 gadens
lawyers

 KPMG

For more information on any of the content in this newsletter, email:

info@fdc.org.au or go to www.fdc.org.au