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Linkages and Partnerships in Microfinance

An innovative capacity building program in Asia was launched by the BWTP network and supported by the Citigroup Foundation and The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC).

The program aims to increase 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. This initiative responds to the challenge of increasing access to financial services in developing countries, diversifying products and services, and reducing poverty.

A set of training material is being prepared and will be delivered through a series of workshops across Asia.

A first workshop was held in November 2006 in New Delhi, India. This workshop included an introduction to the partnership capacity building initiative and a presentation of the course objectives and materials, typology of partnerships and alliance in microfinance as well as structure of the training sessions.

- ❖ [New: Introduction and structure of the Course](#) (PDF 155KB)

The next workshop will be held from 7 to 9 May in Colombo, Sri Lanka (Venue: Hatton National Bank). The event will be run over three days and includes a symposium, a training course and a special session on Microfinance and Disaster Management.

- ❖ [Symposium and Workshop Program](#) (PDF 107KB)
- ❖ [Symposium and Workshop Flyer](#) (PDF 117KB)

New BWTP Members

The BWTP network would like to welcome our new members:

- ❖ [Micro Innovation Centre for Resources & Alternatives](#) (MICRA) (Indonesia) (PDF 68 KB)

MICRA, founded in 2006, is an Indonesian foundation which focuses on the development of the microfinance industry.

- ❖ [Centre for Self-help Development](#) (CSD) (Nepal) (PDF 75 KB)

The Centre for Self-help Development is a national level non-profit and non-governmental organisation established in 1991 in Nepal.

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If you know of any MF organisations that would be interested in joining the BWTP Network let us know. Our contact details are listed below.



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

The [Citigroup Foundation](#) is a supporter of the BWTP Network.



Other BWTP News

❖ **CGAP 2006 Financial Transparency Awards**

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate The First Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) and TSPI (Philippines) for being recognised in the CGAP 2006 Financial Transparency Awards. The annual CGAP Financial Transparency Award is designed to promote greater transparency in annual financial reporting by Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). Out of 231 applicants this year, 20 have emerged as winners. Another 83 MFIs received merit recognition. The First Microfinance Bank was announced as one of the winner's of the award and TSPI received merit recognition for their efforts. For further information about the winners and to learn more about the initiative [click here](#).

Microfinance News

❖ **Call for Proposals on Promoting Innovative Migrant Remittance Systems**

IFAD, EC, IDB, CGAP, the Government of Luxembourg and UNCDF have launched a US\$10 million Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) to reduce rural poverty and promote development within African, European, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Latin American countries. The FFR will promote strategic partnerships among formal financial intermediaries, remittance providers, microfinance institutions, financial cooperatives, non-financial institutions, and postal networks, among others. Through a competitive process, the FFR will award eligible institutions a maximum contribution per project of EUR 200, 000 (approximately US\$260,000 for projects within the EU-LAC corridor) to implement individual projects. Deadline for applications close June 15, 2007. [More....](#)

❖ **[Pakistan: Prudential Regulations for Microfinance Banks \(MFBs\)](#)** (PDF 167KB)

This document contains regulations applicable to all Microfinance Banks licensed by the State Bank of Pakistan. The document examines: minimum capital requirements; exposure to contingent liabilities; liquidity and reserves; deposit protection; prohibited transactions; maximum loan size and maximum exposure per individual; asset classification and provisioning; audits; operational policies; criteria for board members and the Chief Executive; statistical submission requirements; definition of "poor person"; credit ratings.

❖ **[Microfinance Regulation for Financial Inclusion: The 'Street Child' Needs Nurturing...](#)** (PDF 162 KB)

This paper by Sanjay Sinha (M-CRIL) published in 2007, examines the regulatory response to MFI abuses in India and efforts to develop a regulatory framework for microfinance. Sinha's paper is one of a series of essays commissioned by the Microfinance Regulation and Supervision Resource Centre. The essays are intended to provide additional insights and perspectives on the experiences of microfinance institutions, regulators, donors, and others regarding specific microfinance legal and regulatory environments. To view the *Essays on Regulation and Supervision* series [click here](#).

❖ **[Access to Financial Services in Nepal](#)** (PDF 1.74 MB)

This report published by the World Bank examines Nepal's supply and demand for financial services and the constraints to increasing access to them, and offers recommendations for making the financial sector work for all of Nepal's people, especially the poor. The report concludes that access to financial services remains limited for most people in Nepal and has declined in recent years.

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