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Asia-Pacific Financial Inclusion Summit, to be held in Manila, 27-29 October 2015

The Citi Foundation, the Foundation for Development Cooperation and the Financial Times, in partnership with the Banking with the Poor Network, are launching a major new initiative, the Asia-Pacific Financial Inclusion Summit, to be held in Manila on 27-29 October 2015. The Summit consolidates two leading forums, the Citi-FT Financial Education Summit and the Asia Microfinance Forum, to create a new platform that reflects the integration of capability, access and other key elements that can deliver impact and scale in inclusive finance. The event will be a catalyst for debate, best practice, knowledge exchange and partnerships among practitioners, policy-makers and other stakeholders seeking to achieve significantly greater financial inclusion in the region.

Financial inclusion has been recognised as one of the most powerful tools in the fight against poverty. However, despite the success achieved by financial institutions in providing services to millions of excluded people throughout Asia-Pacific, the region is still home to an estimated 1.2 billion people who do not have access to a bank account or formal financial services. The creation of inclusive financial systems remains critical for both social and economic progress. While responses continue to focus on access to finance, income generation, and the fundamentals of saving, the inclusive finance ecosystem is evolving rapidly. Globalisation, digitisation and urbanisation are influencing the many programmes being developed by governments, private financial services providers, microfinance institutions and NGOs.

What are the key measures required to accelerate financial inclusion? How can these efforts achieve maximum impact?

What role can financial services providers play in driving economic progress?

How is the rapid spread of digital technology helping to bridge the gap between financial services and the larger ecosystems of cities, markets and government?

This three-day milestone event will gather more than 500 stakeholders from across the region to discuss these issues and:

- Interact with policy-makers and learn about the latest national and regional initiatives focused on achieving greater financial inclusion in Asia-Pacific
- Explore cutting-edge technology and product innovations presented by industry experts and discuss their impact on inclusion efforts
- Share knowledge with fellow advocates and practitioners and find best practice solutions to the challenges you have experienced in your programmes
- Find partners for initiatives and discuss the models for public-private partnership that can most effectively achieve success at scale

Examine initiatives that embed financial capability in communities to help promote inclusion.

Discuss the potential for microfinance to be the catalyst for driving entrepreneurship and SME creation in underprivileged communities.