



## Microfinance Pasifika Network News

### Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance Online Discussion Session

Microfinance Pasifika Network will be holding the first online discussion session on the Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance during April.

The host of the first session will be Ms Luse Kinivuwai the Chair of the Microfinance Pasifika Network and the Director of the Microfinance Unit of National Centre for Small & Micro Enterprise Development (Fiji).

Ms Kinivuwai's discussion will be focused on "**Can mobile phones or other similar technology improve the viability of doing microfinance in the Pacific?**" Ms Kinivuwai will be available to field any questions and/or comments on this topic from both Microfinance Pasifika Members and the general public.

The discussion will start on the **Wednesday 16th April, 2008**. To accommodate different time zones within the Pacific, questions and comments for the discussion will be accepted throughout the day. Ms Kinivuwai as her time permits will respond to participants who have posted on the discussion forums under the topic heading.

The online discussion sessions will be hosted in the Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance in the [Public Microfinance Pasifika Discussion Forums](#).

To post questions and comments on the discussion forum it is essential that you register for an account at: <http://www.microfinance-pasifika.org/request-an-account.html> and then log in to use the discussion forums.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from individuals and organisations who would be interested in being a guest host in the coming months on the discussion forums. If anyone has a specific issue or theme concerning financial inclusion in the Pacific that they would like to see discussed please let us know.

To do so email your suggestions to [info@microfinance-pasifika.org](mailto:info@microfinance-pasifika.org) or alternatively post your comments on the online discussion forum at: <http://www.microfinance-pasifika.org/forums/index.php?topic=6.0>

## In This Issue:

- ❖ Online Discussion Session
- ❖ MF Pasifika Member News
- ❖ Microfinance News

## Major Donors



Australian Government  
AusAID





## Microfinance Pasifika

### Microfinance Pasifika Member News

#### ❖ **New Microfinance Pasifika Member: ADRA PNG**

ADRA PNG has been working in partnership with communities in PNG for over 15 years. ADRA PNG through Small Enterprise Development Project is conducting training on savings, loaning, banking cottage, income generation and small business management training. The SED project has 423 direct beneficiaries and over 2100 secondary beneficiaries. [More...](#)

### Microfinance News

#### ❖ **Employment Opportunities: Pacific Partnerships and Business Development Specialist (PPBDS) (Fiji)**

Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme Team: The PPBDS will report to the Pacific Financial Inclusion Advisor (PFIA) and have primary responsibility for developing and managing strategic regional partnerships to optimise programme impact through support to strengthening information sharing, donor collaboration and resource mobilisation. Applications close 11 April 2008. [More...](#)

#### **Pacific Financial Inclusion Adviser (Fiji)**

Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme Team: PFIP is recruiting a Pacific Financial Inclusion Adviser to be based in Suva, Fiji. The PFIA will have joint accountability to UNCDF and UNDP for the effective management and implementation of the program through its annual work plans approved by the multi-donor Investment Committee. Applications close 11 April 2008. [More...](#)

#### **Financial Empowerment Project Manager (Solomon Islands)**

UNDP is looking for a dynamic person with substantive project management experience and strong technical expertise in the design and implementation of community based training programmes to take on this role. Applications close 12 April 2008. [More...](#)



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

If your organisation is interested in becoming a member of the Microfinance Pasifika, information is available online at <http://www.microfinance-pasifika.org/membership.html>.



If you have an announcement that you would like publicised in our newsletter or on our website, please contact us at: [info@microfinance-pasifika.org](mailto:info@microfinance-pasifika.org)



## Microfinance Pasifika

❖ **Access to affordable credit critical for financially disadvantaged**

The National Australia Bank (NAB) and Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service, a community service agency, have released a report on the Step UP Loans program. Step UP Loans is a not-for-profit program which offers safe and affordable loans for low income candidates. The report, titled A Step in the Right Direction? A Report into the Step UP Loan Program, 2004-2007, outlines key learning from the pilot of the program. It states that access to affordable credit is critical for the financially disadvantaged. [More....](#)

❖ **New Report Outlines Microfinance Risks**

Microfinance Banana Skins 2008, is a comprehensive survey undertaken which looks at the risk outlook for the microfinance industry. The survey was produced by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (CSFI) and sponsored by Citi Foundation and CGAP. A copy of the report is [available here](#).

❖ **"Financing Village-Level Energy for Development in the Asia-Pacific" Workshop**

The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) will host a small, high-level workshop in Manila on 10 and 11 April 2008 entitled "Financing Village-Level Energy for Development in the Asia-Pacific". The agenda will focus on the methodologies and options available for financing sustainable energy supply initiatives linked with microfinance and/or SME finance in the Asia-Pacific region. Further regarding the event is [available here](#).

❖ **Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance**

If you have any papers, publications etc. that you would like to see featured in the Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance which is located on the Microfinance Pasifika website, please don't hesitate to email the information to [info@microfinance-pasifika.org](mailto:info@microfinance-pasifika.org).

Please feel free to distribute the MF Pasifika E-newsletter among friends and colleagues.

If you want to **subscribe** to our E-newsletter, [click here](#).

### Contact Us

Microfinance Pasifika Network  
PO Box 10445, Adelaide Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia

**Email:** [info@microfinance-pasifika.org](mailto:info@microfinance-pasifika.org)

**Website:** <http://www.microfinance-pasifika.org>