



Letter from the Chair

Microfinance Pasifika Network has now been in existence for 6 months and a lot of work has been done, particularly in the area of planning to ensure that this network has a clear direction for the future on specific areas raised by our members.

The key areas are in **information building and exchange, transparency, capacity building and promotion of an enabling environment** in the context of the Pacific. A three-year strategic plan is being finalised to present to the members and this will form the pathway of MF Pasifika.

We are presently on a **membership drive for 2007** and hope to build well beyond our current membership of **12 institutions in 7 countries**.

We have been very grateful for the support of donors who have come forward and generously supported the Network, namely **AUSAID, ANZ, UNDP** and **Westpac**; we hope to add to this list in the future.

One of the major activities for 2007 is the **AGM** for our members and conference currently planned for June in Fiji. We shall know due course if this will be possible in the current political crisis.

Other Pacific Islands who have faced similar turmoil in recent times will know how microfinance has been a lifeline to many clients who have no other access to any type of financial service.

However with the challenges of providing microfinance in the Pacific, such crisis also brings an added fragility to our service providers. This may have to be an area that we may need to address in the Network as the number of member island countries in this predicament increases.

We are thankful that we have an avenue such as this Network that we can raise these issues and discuss as **Microfinance Service Providers** in the Pacific. I really must acknowledge **Beris Gwynne**, former Executive Director of FDC, and **FDC Board** and **staff** for initiating this idea of a Network and helping to make it a reality.

We would like to wish our members, donors and all our readers a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Luse Kinivuwai
Chair, Microfinance Pasifika Network

In This Issue:

Letter from the Chair

MF Pasifika News:

- ADB Expanding Rural Microfinance Opportunities in Vanuatu
- Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance: *Training Needs Analysis Survey*

Microfinance News:

- Web-Based Micro financing
- Spreading Microfinance to Urban Poor
- Microfinance Comes of Age

REGISTER YOUR ORGANISATION WITH THE MIX MARKET



The MIX MARKET™ is a global, web-based, microfinance information platform. It provides information to sector actors and the public at large on microfinance institutions (MFIs) worldwide, public and private funds that invest in microfinance, MFI networks, raters/external evaluators, advisory firms, and governmental and regulatory agencies. The MIX Market seeks to develop a transparent information market to link MFIs worldwide with Investors and Donors and promote greater investment and information flows.

The MIX MARKET currently provides data on 812 MFIs, 85 investors and 141 partners.

Currently **South Pacific Business Development (SPBD)**, Samoa is the only registered Pacific-base NGO. You can read their profile [here](#).

For more information go to:
www.mixmarket.org.

MF Pasifika News

ADB Expanding Rural Microfinance Opportunities in Vanuatu

NBV has successfully pioneered a project to create sustainable, profitable rural micro lending in Vanuatu, to be expanded in 2007.

Two technical assistance grants amounting to US\$500,000 provided by ADB in 2002-2006 supported the expansion and scaling-up of rural microfinance services. The project shows that microfinance can be commercially viable using an approach that builds on local systems.

"This approach is an innovative one, and the results reflect that the demand for this product is real and growing," says Naomi Chakwin, Regional Director of ADB's Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office.

[Click here for the full article](#)

Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance

As you may be aware MF Pasifika will be working in partnership with UNDP to launch the **Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance** (PRCM) in 2007. This will be the virtual information hub designed to provide the dissemination of appropriate practices, and training support for staff of microfinance institutions.

Below is a list of training course themes that MF Pasifika would like to pilot through the PRCM:

- Financial Transparency
- Poverty Outreach
- Enabling Policy Frameworks
- Institutional Building
- Product Development and Servicing Diversification
- Microfinance and Technology

Please be aware that the Secretariat shall be circulating an **Analysis Survey** and conducting ground research to develop a clear **Training Needs Assessment** of our members.

Therefore we ask for your complete cooperation over the coming months to support the Secretariat through the development process of the PRCM.

Microfinance News

Web-Based Micro Financing

Published: 10/12/2006 - New York Times, USA

In a response to giving poor and remote populations access to credit, a Stanford-based couple have developed kiva.org. A web-site designed to directly connect microfinance entrepreneurs to NGOs.

[Click here for the full article](#)



If you have an **announcement** or a **news brief** that you'd like publicised in our **newsletter** or on our **website**, please contact us at: info@microfinance-pasifika.org.



Founding Donors



Australian Government
AusAID

Westpac

ANZ

Pledged Donor



Strategic Partnership



Spreading Microfinance to the Urban Poor

Published: 11/12/2006 - Ohmy News, Korea

More than 400,000 poor and destitute households in urban and semi-urban areas in three major cities in Bangladesh have found ways to reduce their poverty-related vulnerabilities with small loans.

[Click here for the full article](#)

Microfinance Comes of Age

Published: 07/12/2006 – The World Bank Group

...Many believe the award (Nobel Peace Prize) signals a coming of age for microfinance, often thought of as banking for the poor. While Microcredit is essentially the extension of very small loans to poor people normally excluded from traditional banking because they lack collateral or employment, microfinance offers a fuller range of financial services including loans, savings, insurance and payment services, to the poor...

[Click here for the full article](#)

Contact us

Microfinance Pasifika Secretariat, PO Box 10445, Adelaide Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia
Phone: + 61 7 3831 8722, Fax: +61 7 3831 8755
info@microfinance-pasifika.org