



Microfinance Pasifika Network News

Pacific Microfinance Week 2009

The Microfinance Pasifika Network and The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) are pleased to provide you with an update on Pacific Microfinance Week 2009 (PMW 2009) in Nadi, Fiji, July 13 - 17, 2009.



PMW 2009 will be a week-long series of events, meetings and gatherings of a range of organisations and individuals which have an interest in promoting the provision of inclusive and sustainable financial services in the Pacific.

Online registration for Pacific Microfinance Week 2009 is now available from: <http://www.microfinance-pasifika.org/registration-form>

To attend the Pacific Microfinance Week 2009 it is essential to register your details online. Once your registration has been received a formal invitation letter for the event will be e-mailed to you. Registration for the event closes on the **30 April 2009**.

Please note, as Pacific Microfinance Week 2009 does not have a registration fee, we request all delegates travelling to Nadi, Fiji to submit their travel details in the registration form to secure their position at the event.

Interest in participating in the event is strong, so we recommend that you complete your registration early to secure your place at Pacific Microfinance Week 2009.

A limited number of subsidies may be available for delegates from Microfinance Pasifika Network Members only, that are already sharing information about their microfinance programs, or are able to provide details about microfinance initiatives they have recently started. Preference will be given to registered non-profit member organisations. Application Deadline: **April 15, 2009**.

Over the coming months updated information regarding the event will be published in our newsletter and on the Pacific Microfinance Week 2009 website at: <http://www.pacificmicrofinanceweek.org>.

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❖ Samoa Observer - Person of the Year 2008

Mr Greg Casagrande the founder and chairman of South Pacific Business Development (SPBD) Foundation recently received the honour of Samoa Observer's - Person of the Year 2008. SPBD has had an immeasurable impact on the lives of thousands of Samoans through the provision of micro loans in Samoa. [More....](#)

Microfinance News

❖ Remittance Fees for Pacific Islanders Set to be Reduced

Pacific Islanders living in New Zealand are paying millions of dollars in bank fees when they send money back home, but that could be about to change, thanks to a new system using ATM machines and credit cards.

Most struggling Pacific Islanders depend on money from family in New Zealand to pay for food and education, and money transfers across the Pacific are estimated to be worth around \$800 million (US\$423 million) a year.

Dr Manjula Luthria, a World Bank Economist, says that the money transfers are "absolutely a lifeline," adding that remittances are in a sense "the number one export income for the Pacific." [More...](#)

❖ Employment Opportunity: Microfinance Project Worker (Australia)

Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service currently has an employment opportunity available for a Microfinance Project Worker (Buying Service, Traders Charter and Promotions). The position will play a key role in promoting the supports available for people on low incomes across Victoria. The role includes coordinating the implementation of the Traders' Charter, liaising with retail traders of household goods, working with Victorian NILS Community Development Workers, supporting all Victorian NILS programs and handling direct consumer enquiries and providing quotes via the Good Shepherd Buying Service. [More...](#)



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

If your organisation is interested in becoming joining 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



Microfinance Pasifika

❖ **Employment Opportunity: NZAID**

NZAID is currently seeking a Development Programme Manager for International Finance Institutions. The position would be responsible for managing NZAID's partnerships with international finance institutions programming, including programming allocation of about NZ\$10million. The role includes strategic planning, policy advice, financial analysis, programme management, and managing relationships. [More...](#)

❖ **MIX Releases 2008 Global Rankings for MFIs**

The Microfinance Information eXchange (MIX) has recently released the Global 100 composite Ranking, which is an analysis and ranking of Microfinance Institutions performance based on data from the calendar year 2007. A copy of the report is available from, the [MIX Website](#).

❖ **CGAP Survey on Microfinance Funders**

CGAP recently completed the first survey of major cross-border funding for microfinance. This survey brings together information on the microfinance portfolios of leading donors and investors and will help the industry understand where money for microfinance comes from, how is it used, and where it goes. The 54 funders included in this survey committed \$11.7 billion to microfinance, of which \$2.5 billion was disbursed in 2007. The six largest funders—AsDB, KfW, World Bank, IFAD, IFC, and EBRD—contributed more than 50 percent of the overall funding. Results from the survey are available, from the [CGAP website](#).

❖ **CGAP Hosts Pioneer Perspectives on Mobile Banking**

During December, CGAP hosted a online roundtable on the topic of how mobile banking can deliver a range of financial services to poor people and change lives for the better. The presentations and video of the event are available online from:

<http://technology.cgap.org/2008/12/18/watch-the-video-mobile-banking-for-poor-people-pioneer-perspectives/>

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

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