

Microfinance Pasifika Network News

Pacific Microfinance Week 2007

**Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
August 27 – 31, 2007**

In the first event of its kind ever held in the Pacific region, the Microfinance Pasifika Network convened the inaugural Pacific Microfinance Week in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 27 to 31 August 2007.



The Pacific Microfinance Week 2007 in Port Moresby brought together more than 130 microfinance and financial sector practitioners, experts, policy-makers, academics and regulators drawn from more than 20 countries from across the Pacific and beyond for a week-long series of events, discussions,



meetings and gatherings. The objective of the event was to exchange knowledge and ideas on how to further promote financial inclusion across the Pacific region. Further information regarding the event, including presentations are available [here](#).

A second Pacific Microfinance Week is tentatively planned for sometime in 2009.



To be kept informed about future Microfinance Pasifika events subscribe to our electronic mailing list at <http://www.microfinance-pasifika.org/subscribe.html>.

Pacific Islands Financial Services Sector Assessment

The objective of this Financial Services Sector Assessment (FSSA) was to review access to financial services in five least developed countries (LDCs) in the Pacific and make recommendations to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and their stakeholders regarding programme initiatives that will improve access for the currently unbanked population. Summary of the assessment is as follows:

- The vast majority of Pacific Islanders suffer economically from lack of access to financial services. This observation reflects the reality of low service coverage rates as well as anecdotal evidence of the costs that the unbanked population incur conducting transactions without adequate financial service infrastructure.
 - Access to financial services has been constrained primarily by economic inefficiencies that limit the reach of traditional institutional models for delivering financial services. For the most parts, donor support to traditional microfinance institutional models has floundered on these inefficiencies.
 - There are new opportunities, primarily driven by communications technology, for achieving efficiencies in the delivery of financial services to the currently unbanked population.
- Opportunities for Extending the Financial Services Access Frontier

Further information regarding the FSSA and a copy of the report are [available here](#).

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Major Donors



Microfinance Pasifika Member News

❖ Microfinance Competence Center (MCC) Port Moresby

The 6th graduation since the establishment of MCC in 2002 was held on the 8th June 2007. Fifteen (15) participants from 4 different microfinance institutions graduated with certificates in Microfinance Practice.

Included among the 15 graduates were 4 scholarships students. MCC is pleased to announce that it successfully implemented its scholarship program this year graduating four (4) graduates on the 8 of June 2007 under its scholarship program.



So far MCC has graduated a total of 72 including the 4 scholarships who are subsidized under the PNG-ADB Microfinance Project and are from various Microfinance Institutions which are registered with MCC.

Gure Huk
Manager MCC



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

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



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 News

❖ Banking with the Poor: Second International Asia Microfinance Forum 2008

Given the success of the first [Asia Microfinance Forum in 2006](#) held in Beijing, China, the Banking with the Poor (BWTP) Network, with support from the Citi Foundation, is pleased to announce that the Second International Asia Microfinance Forum will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 26 to 29 August 2008. This major international event will focus on the latest opportunities to grow microfinance availability through linkages with the financial system, new partnerships and innovative applications of technology. If you would like to be kept informed about this event, please register your [details here](#).

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](#).

❖ Global Survey on Staff Incentive Schemes for MFIs

MicroFinance Network (MFN), in collaboration with CGAP, is conducting its second global survey on staff incentive schemes (SIS). The survey aims to: help MFIs evaluate and improve their SIS; identify best practices for SIS design.

All participating MFIs will receive a customized benchmark report that compares the effects and design of their SIS against peer MFIs. To participate in the online please [click here](#).

Microfinance Publications

❖ CGAP Brief: Using Technology to Build Inclusive Financial Systems

In April 2006, CGAP published a brief which examines the innovative use of information and communications technologies to process small transactions and deliver a wide range of financial services which may help to make microfinance institutions (MFIs) more efficient and commercial banks more interested in serving poor people. [More...](#)

❖ **New Publication: FDC Briefing Note**

FDC is pleased to announce the launch of the new publication series, FDC Briefing Note. This series of publications will focus on innovative issues in international development and will be published at least on a quarterly basis.

The first two in the series include:

1. [Electronic Banking with the Poor - Opportunities and Implications for Microfinance Providers](#) authored by Stuart Mathison (Head- Technology Initiatives).
2. [ENERGY LENDING: Microfinance and Access to Modern, Alternative Energies](#) authored by Jamie Bedson (Program Officer).

❖ **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.

Contact Us

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