

VIETNAM MICROFINANCE WORKING GROUP

NEWSLETTER – June 2007

NEW PROJECT

As part of Citi's ongoing commitment to the field of microfinance, we are pleased to announce that the Citi Foundation will support the Vietnam Microentrepreneurship Awards program for the first time this year, highlighting the achievements of some of the most innovative microentrepreneurs in Vietnam. In 2006, The Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards Program was a success in 23 countries. This year, Citi Foundation, with the co-operation of Vietnam Microfinance Working Group, will launch the program in Vietnam.

The program's greatest success was increasing global awareness of the important role that microentrepreneurs play in their local economies, and the significance of microfinance as a poverty alleviation tool. The goal of the program is (i) to support microentrepreneurs, by increasing their awareness of how they may benefit from microfinance products and services. (ii) The program seeks to put the spotlight on local microentrepreneurs who are helping to lift the economic fortunes of their families and their communities, generating greater opportunities to bring capital into their developing economies. (iii) To create the next generation of microfinance networks comprised of political and financial leaders, opinion shapers, students, practitioners, and communities.

If you would like to learn more about the program or would like to get involved, please contact the Vietnam Country Team at tel: (84-4) 5131853, fax: (84-4) 513 2246 or through e-mail: cmavietnam@gmail.com

NEW PERSONNEL

- Vietnam Microfinance Working Group is pleased to welcome a new staff, Ms. Tran Thi Hong Van, who will start working from June 1, 2007. Ms. Hong Van will work as an Administrative Assistant for the Microfinance and Development Center (M&D) and specifically assist the joint project with Ford Foundation. She can be reached at (04) 511 5469 or via vanth83@gmail.com.
- To assist Vietnam Microfinance Working Group in launching the *Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards 2007* in Vietnam, Citibank Vietnam has assigned its 7 student interns to work on the project. They are Nguyen Bao Anh Thu, Nguyen Quang Minh, Nguyen Tra My, Nguyen Ha Minh, Ta Phuong Bao, Le Thu Phuong, and Tran Bao Hoang.

NEW INTERFACE – NEW INFORMATION

- The website of Vietnam Microfinance Working Group, on the server of NGO Resources Centre has been updated with more information. Visitors can download the softcopy of the latest bulletin (No 9, April 2007) from the website and subscribe to the group's mailing list. Please visit MFWG's website at:
http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/default.asp?page=forum_and_working_groups/microfinance
- Following the Vietnam Bank for Social Policy, Binh Minh Community Development Consultancy Company, and the Vietnam Microfinance Working Group, on 20/6/2007, the Thanh Hoa Microfinance Program has successfully joined The MIX network and posted their information on the network's website. The detailed profile of the Thanh Hoa Microfinance Program can be viewed at :
<http://www.mixmarket.org/en/demand/demand.show.profile.asp?ett=2293>

WORKSHOP

Microfinance for Poverty Alleviation: Lessons in the Last Decade

This conference will be held from 12 - 13 July 2007 in Phu Tho by Rural Development Services Centre (RDSC). Our experience in the last decade shows that despite the fact that in Vietnam rural areas, there are a number of credit sources available, women, especially the poor ones, continue expressing their demand for the services of micro-finance institutions that they control.

RDSC would like to invite you to join us in a two-day gathering in a rural setting of Phu Tho Province where development professionals and practitioners meet, discuss and share their expertise on:

1. current rural market for micro-finance services
2. lessons in building micro-finance institutions owned and operated by women for poverty alleviation and empowering women
3. Lessons in mobilizing resources for sustainable services and quality performance
4. The needs for capacity building for micro-finance services providers;
5. The needs for networking among community-based micro-finance service provider and possible ways for addressing.

The workshop is to be convened in Vietnamese.

Please click the link <http://rdscvn.org/webplus/viewer.asp?pgid=17&aid=350> for more information on meeting. We expect that this workshop contributes to improving

gender equality and women's empowerment by means of micro-finance services in Vietnam. We look forward to working together with you in the workshop.

WORKSHOP

“Microcredit for coastal communities”

Content

Center for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development is a non-government organization who works in the field of marine conservation with focusing on supporting the coastal communities in marine conservation and sustainable alternative livelihoods development.

Van Hung Commune (Van Ninh District, Khanh Hoa Province) and Giao Xuan Commune (Giao Thuy District, Nam Dinh Province) are project areas of MCD where are happening supportive activities based on communities' needs and initiatives. MCD provides to coastal communities knowledge of sustainable livelihoods, bio-diversity, ecotourism and environment conservation, ect.... With equipped knowledge and information, there have been more and more households in these communities successfully applying technology methods to aquaculturing, developed sustainable livelihoods for themselves. However, there have been some households facing with difficulty in finding and developing new livelihoods, caused by lacking financial supports.

Based on this circumstance, MCD held a small survey to evaluate the issue of micro credit in coastal communities where MCD implements its projects. The result of this survey provides accurate information of actual situation in coastal communities as well as their needs of microcredit. Based on achievements from project implementation and results of the survey, MCD recognises that there must be a forum for coastal communities, banking/credit organizations and related stakeholders to send their voices with topic of microcredit for coastal communities for sustainable livelihoods improvement. That's why workshop on “Microcredit for coastal communities” must be organized with the following details.

Purpose of the workshop

Workshop on “Microcredit for coastal communities” aims to introduce and share the following contents:

- o Overview of microcredit. Government's opinions about microcredit for poor communities;
- o Overview of current situation of microcredit for coastal communities, who much

- depend on fisheries and coastal resources exploitation;
- o Expectation from coastal communities about methodology to assess, use and capital repay effectively;
 - o Imperatives of integration of sustainable livelihoods principles and effective microcredit program;
 - o Providing an open forum for participants to share and discuss about solutions for effective microcredit program of poor coastal communities.

Methodology

Time: July 10, 2007.

Location: Hanoi

Deadline for registration: July 2, 2007

To register, please contact Ms. Hoang Anh, email: hoanganh@mcdvietnam.org

The Centre for Marine life Conservation and Community Development (MCD), Suite 1605, Level 16, Block B, Building M3-M4, 91A Nguyen Chi Thanh Street, Dong Da, Hanoi, Vietnam. Phone: +84 4 275 2106. Fax: +84 4 275 2107.

WORKSHOP

“Strengthening microfinance associations”

On behalf of the Vietnam Microfinance Working Group, Ms. Nguyen Hong Hanh, co-president and Mr. Tran Ngoc Thinh, the program coordinator, will attend the ADA workshop held from 3/7/2007 to 5/7/2007 in Luxembourg. The workshop will allow microfinance associations and networks to share their expertise on founding, developing and strengthening organizational structure. At the workshop, the Vietnam Microfinance Working Group hopes to discuss its problems with other associations and networks.

Vietnam Microfinance Working Group
Microfinance and Development Center – The Secretariat
Address: 88/64 Nguyen Luong Bang St. Hanoi, Vietnam.

Tel: +84.4.5131853

Fax: +84.4.5132246

Email: tranngocthin@gmail.com

Website: http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/default.asp?page=forum_and_working_groups/microfinance