



## Microfinance Pasifika Network News Pacific Credit Union Technical Congress

29th September – 3rd October 2008

Fiji

Credit Union Foundation Australia (CUFA) is co-hosting the Pacific Credit Union Technical Congress with the Fiji Savings and Credit Union League (FSCUL) and the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU). The Pacific Credit Union Technical Congress will be held in Fiji from 29th September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008. The key objective is to bring together all of the emerging credit union movements, leagues, federations and regulators in the region to establish a platform for sharing information and mutual learning on common challenges and developments.

There will be a broad representation from the region with delegates invited from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and Hawaii. Visiting guests from Canada and the US will also be attending to present in their areas of expertise.

To encourage more of our neighbours in the Pacific region to attend the congress, CUFA and WOCCU, with the help of funding from Australian credit unions, have developed a scholarship incentive program. This program will assist smaller credit unions to be able to participate.

Fiji, the host country for the congress, is working closely with CUFA to ensure the success of this important event. There will be a strong technical assistance focus, bringing already developed and emerging credit union movements together to facilitate training and support. It will also give the developed credit union movements an insight into the challenges and major issues that are impacting the Pacific credit union movement.

All credit unions in the Asian Pacific movement are invited to attend the Pacific Credit Union Technical Congress to share their knowledge and experience with our Pacific neighbours.

**Enquiries** regarding the Pacific Congress should be directed to:

**Carla Elbourne at CUFA**

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Register Online at:

<http://cufa.com.au/introduction/Projects/PacificCongress/index.jsp>

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## Microfinance Pasifika

### Microfinance Pasifika Member News

- ❖ **Papua New Guinea Institute of Banking and Business Management and the Microfinance Competence Centre**  
Port Moresby

#### Scholarships

IBBM and the Microfinance Competence Centre continue to support the microfinance industry on a large scale as evident with the twenty-two open scholarships and twenty-two microfinance institutional capacity development scholarships which were offered to the public and microfinance institutions in Papua New Guinea this year.

The purpose of these scholarships is to support the overall microfinance industry in PNG and more, specifically, to continue to support the capacity building of the existing microfinance organisations, schemes and women's groups.

Training for the scholarship participants will commence on 16 June 2008 on a six-weekly basis for three periods throughout the year.

#### Distant Learning

Fundamentals of Microfinance, a pre-requisite module leading to the Certificate in Microfinance Practice is now available in Distant Learning Mode. The module incorporates 99% PNG data and experience. IBBM recommends that the module would be relevant for most pacific country practitioners and the Aboriginal and Thursday Island communities in Australia. The reference information and support materials are sourced through the CGAP database. The course instructional design is done through the University of Papua New Guinea Open College in Port Moresby. Reviews of the modules were conducted by international consultants and local experienced staff in each respective profession. The other five modules are currently under development. Further information about the modules will be available in the near future. The fees are US\$ 450.00 per module.

During May, IBBM and the Microfinance Competence Centre also delivered training on microfinance fundamentals, lending skills and delinquency management at the recent South Pacific Business Development workshop in Samoa.

#### For further information, contact:

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The MF Pasifika Network is an initiative of [The Foundation for Development Cooperation](http://www.fdc.org)

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



## Microfinance Pasifika

### Microfinance News

- ❖ **Code of Ethics to be Established in Microfinance**  
NEW YORK, May 19, 2008 At the initiative of Deutsche Bank, The Boulder Institute, and CGAP, leaders of microfinance institutions, investors, banks and development agencies gathered in New York to develop a common ground and set of principles that would help microfinance navigate between commercialization and its social mission. The Pocantico Declaration is the first step toward a code of conduct that could distinguish microfinance from other providers of financial services who lack the social motivation that drives the microfinance industry. [More...](#)
- ❖ **AusAID Employment Opportunity: Pacific Policy Manager - (Executive Level 1)**  
The EL1 Pacific Policy Managers work in AusAID's Pacific Branch on country or regional programs to develop policy initiatives and provide strategic advice. They also work closely with thematic research groups (e.g. Education, Health, Infrastructure, and Environment), overseas country offices and other areas within AusAID delivering Australia's Aid Program. [More...](#)
- ❖ **Participatory Project Management (PPM) Workshop**  
*Suva, Fiji*  
*15th-17th July 2008*  
The purpose of this workshop is to learn practical and participatory project management skills, which are used in community development (CD) projects in the Asia Pacific Region. [More...](#)
- ❖ **Pacific Resource Centre for Microfinance**  
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>

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

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