

'Financial Services for the Poor' Professional Training Programme
Alliance Forum Foundation, BRAC University

24 February – 10 March 2010

(Application deadline: November 30, 2009)

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 2nd 'Financial Services for the Poor' programme to be held in Bangladesh, 24 February – 10 March 2010. This course brings together the experience of various microfinance institutions over Bangladesh and expert faculty. The course will be lead by Dr. Syed M. Hashemi, Director of the Development Institute of BRAC University and Senior Microfinance Specialist of CGAP (Consultative Group to Assist the Poor) and leading practitioners and academics from across the field of microfinance.

Description

The ten day introductory course is intended for those with little or no knowledge of microfinance. It provides a broad global picture of the state of microfinance, its emergence and challenges, and its future. It will be grounded in the experience of Bangladesh. The course will introduce a range of issues in microfinance so that participants have a holistic understanding without getting into much depth. It will be team taught using different pedagogical methods and will include extensive field visits.

Course Outline

1. The emergence of microfinance: Bangladesh, Africa, and Latin America.
2. Financial inclusion and exclusion and the range of delivery models: NGO, credit unions, cooperatives, state and rural banks, specialized financial institutions, commercial banks, etc.
3. Sustainability and reaching the poor: balancing the twin objectives.
4. Operations of a microfinance institution
 - Disbursement & collections
 - MIS systems
 - Setting interest rates
 - Planning for growth

5. The range of financial products: savings, credit, insurance, pension, money transfers, etc.
6. Microfinance impacts: household and macro level; how do MFI clients fare in the current global financial crisis.
7. The regulatory framework: how does government set microfinance policy and supervise MFIs?
8. Funding microfinance: donors, governments, social investors and the private commercial sector.
9. The future of microfinance: commercial players, branchless banking and the integration of the financial sector.

Field Visits:

1. Grameen Bank: the conventional microfinance model
2. BRAC: working with the poorest
3. SafeSave: savings led microfinance
4. ASA: managing efficiency
5. Bangladesh Bank: the Microfinance Regulatory Authority
6. PKSF: microfinance apex organizations

Dates: 24 February – 10 March 2010

Language: classes to be taught in English

Venues: Bangladesh (Dhaka city and suburb areas for field visits)

Numbers: 20 participants

Application should:

Be over 18 years of age, be highly motivated, have an interest in pursuing a career in international development or microfinance.

How to apply:

To apply to the AFF - BRAC 'Financial Services for the Poor' Programme, please download an application form or request for an application form at nonomiya@tkfd.or.jp and send the form to the address below through email.

Alliance Forum Foundation

Email: info@allianceforum.org

TEL: 03-5412-0132 (Nonomiya)

Application deadline: November 30, 2009

Cost: 350,000 JPY (3500 USD)

Cost includes tuition for the 2 week course in Bangladesh, 1 day introductory course in Tokyo, follow-up workshops, course materials, field trips, accommodation in Bangladesh, flight to and from Bangladesh - Tokyo. Cost does not include fee for obtaining a visa, airport tax, fuel surcharge fee.

Contact us at:

Alliance Forum Foundation

Email: info@allianceforum.org

TEL: 03-5412-0132 (Nonomiya/Kawaguchi/Honda)