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Philippine Postal Savings Bank joins MCPI as associate member



What is now known as the Philippine Postal Savings Bank (Postbank) used to be Postal Savings Bank, a division of the Bureau of Posts.

It was established in 1906 to bring banking services to the rural areas and to enable the Philippine government to tap savings in the countryside.

The breakdown of the banking system in the 1940s due to the Japanese occupation interrupted Postbank's operation. Services resumed after the war in 1946 and rapid growth was observed by the bank. However, shortly after Martial Law was declared, then President Ferdinand Marcos

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Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc.

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Strengthening the Capacities of MFIs: Building Leadership Accountability to the Mission

On September 7 - 11, 2015, delegates of different microfinance institutions (MFIs) across the country gathered in a workshop hosted by the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI) in partnership with the People's Development Trust Fund (PDTF), in Iloilo City.



MFI representatives and facilitators take a break before proceeding to the next workshop.

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decided to close Postbank in 1973 on the ground that it was unduly competing with private thrift banks.

In 1992, when the Bureau of Post became an autonomous chartered corporation and was renamed Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPOST), it re-established Postbank as a wholly-owned subsidiary. Postbank was formally re-opened by President Fidel Ramos in 1994 but it was not until a new management took over following the assumption of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III that Postbank once again experienced steady growth.

Postbank now has 25 branches nationwide. It provides wholesale loans to microfinance institutions and offers domestic and international remittance services. In pursuit of its vision to become the government's authentic countryside development bank, Postbank's Microfinance Banking Office (MBO) program has opened up microbanking facilities in selected postal and local government unit offices in the unbanked and underserved municipalities throughout the country. Through the MBO, Postbank hopes to contribute its share towards achieving the government's major objective of inclusive growth. MBOs mobilize savings; provide microfinancing to individuals; and extend credit to LGUs to finance the delivery of basic services specifically water, renewable energy, health and sanitation. ♦

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES...FROM PAGE 1

“Strengthening the Capacities of MFIs: Building Leadership Accountability to the Mission” is a five-day workshop that introduced participants to Social Performance Management (SPM), Client Protection Principles (CPP), and leadership skills. In attendance were representatives of seven MFIs. Practitioners of different designations - a trustee, a vice president for operations, operations officers, area managers, branch managers, branch officers - enriched the diversity of delegates attending the event. The workshop's knowledge exchange aspect was made more fruitful with the participants' broad individual experiences.

To make the learning activity more effective, the workshop included a visit to Ahon sa Hirap, Inc. in Antique. As the center meeting began, the participants were given the chance to observe how SPM practices are applied. They learned how important it is to adapt to the needs and capabilities of MFI clients to assure them that they are never defrauded and can make

fully-informed decisions. It was observed how the management was able to unify their personnel and clients toward a common goal which revolves around SPM and CPP. The delegates also recognized how helpful it is to create a friendly environment for staff and clients founded on good leadership practices. The delegates had the opportunity to ask questions as to how the principles are applied in various circumstances; and how the roadmap to their social goal is conceptualized.

The facilitators ensured that the lessons imparted amongst the

participants are internalized. They encouraged the participants to formulate an action plan that they can integrate in the operation of their respective institutions. The mission of helping the poor walk out of poverty continues as participants are encouraged to apply social performance principles in their practice. The ‘smallest’ achievement of social goals means so much to those the MFIs have pledged to serve.

The workshop was facilitated by Mrs. Mila Mercado-Bunker and Ms. Jesila Ledesma. ♦



Participants observe a center meeting of ASHI in Antique.