

# ugnayan

## MCPI holds Social Performance Country Report Dissemination Forum



MCPI CHAIRPERSON FR. JOSE VICTOR LOBRIGO WELCOMES PARTICIPANTS TO THE SP FUND DISSEMINATION FORUM.

The Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI) conducted the Social Performance Country Report Dissemination Forum on March 29, 2017 at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. The forum aimed to share the status of social performance management in the Philippines to microfinance institutions (MFIs) as well as other stakeholders in the Philippine microfinance sector, such as the government's regulatory agencies and allied support institutions. Sixty representatives from thirty-two different organizations attended the forum.

Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo, MCPI Chairperson, welcomed the participants, while Mr. Allan Robert I. Sicat, MCPI Executive Director, introduced the Country Report, its background, funders, and the process that guided the creation of the report.

Ms. Lalaine Joyas, MCPI Consultant, presented the contents of the report, including how MFIs define and monitor social goals, the range of products and services offered by MFIs, and how the microfinance sector is currently preventing client over-indebtedness. To help participants understand better how MFIs implement social performance in their institutions, MFI practitioners were invited to present and share their experiences in a learning exchange session.

### What's Inside

2 14th Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards Winners recognized in hometown celebrations

Mr. Gilbert Maramba, Deputy Director for Operations of Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTF), shared their experiences in setting clear social goals. He presented NWTF's social goals and objectives, the considerations in setting them, and how these goals are being monitored.

Ms. Amina Mendez, Corporate Planning Manager of Alalay Sa Kaunlaran, Inc. (ASKI), talked about client targeting. She shared the poverty profile of their new clients and how they ensure that most clients they reach fall below the poverty line. She also discussed challenges they encountered in client targeting.

Ms. Mendez also tackled the use of client feedback to understand their needs. This includes a discussion on how they collect client feedback, how the results are used, and the challenges that they have encountered in the aspect of data collection and analysis.

Ms. Alma Estolas, Executive Director of Rangtay sa Pagrang-ay Microfinance, Inc. (RPMI), discussed client over-indebtedness and how they are monitored at RPMI. She presented specific indicators on client over-indebtedness and how RPMI developed these indicators.

Ms. Evelyn Narvaez, Research Director of Center for Agriculture and Development, Inc. (CARD), presented their experience with the use of credit bureau information from MIDAS, the microfinance credit bureau, as a means to prevent client over-indebtedness.

At the end of the forum, participants agreed that a social performance country report can be produced every three years. The results of the report and learnings from the forum will be helpful to regulators including the Microfinance NGOs. Regulatory Council (MNRC) under the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) as it develops indicators on social performance as part of the accreditation standards for Microfinance NGOs. ♦

## 14th Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards winners recognized in hometown celebrations

Awardees of the 14th Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards (CMA) were recently feted in their hometowns, as the program hosts Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Citi Philippines and the Microfinance Council of the Philippines (MCPI) campaigned to celebrate their pioneering work through community town halls.

In these engaging town halls, the eight winners from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were joined by their family members, friends and co-members from their respective microfinance institutions.

For Luzon Regional Awardee Richel Vargas, her town hall became a venue to inspire others to take the path of entrepreneurship. The tailor-turned-producer and vendor of accessories for bicycle and motorcycle riders brought a message of hope, perseverance, and encouragement to her employees, relatives, neighbors and friends in Antipolo City, Rizal.

First Macro Bank, the microcredit institution that provided Vargas with her much needed seed capital, was represented by president Reginald Ocampo. In his brief remarks, he

encouraged the others present to try their hand in business as well, citing Vargas' story as one that is worth emulating.

Aneth Lim, Citi Philippines Director for Public Affairs and Corporate Citizenship, joined the community celebration for Richel and encouraged her friends and family who were present to continue supporting her. "Richel was honored along with 7 other awardees in a big celebration last December. But we came here today because this celebration is for you - to toast Richel's success and showcase how microfinance can be your partner in setting up or growing a successful and award-winning micro business."

Lim added: "This is our 14th year of honoring micro economic heroes around the country, and these intimate town halls are our way of bringing inspiration to communities to show them that they can be our next awardees."

When it was Vargas' turn to present her remarks, the hardworking mother spoke of the importance of staying true to oneself, and the priceless value of staying humble. "Lakasan niyo ang loob niyo kasi marami kayong dadaanang pagsubok. Maging honest kayo at matutong makisama sa iba (Be brave for you are bound to encounter many challenges. Always practice honesty and learn to be a team player)," she relayed, drawing applause and cheer from everyone present.

Belen Torrecampo, Vargas' neighbor, lauded her as one who is truly "hardworking and encouraging." She mentioned that Vargas' drive has pushed other community members to be entrepreneurs themselves.

CMA 2016 National Winner Honie Krizia Navor of HK Stone Craft

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



**Annual General Meeting**

**26 July 2017**



Trading was also celebrated in a town hall held in Iloilo City. Navor began her entrepreneurial career with only P1,000 as a fledgling tombstone maker, which she has since grown and expanded into a full-blown stone and tile distribution business.

The CMA town halls were held from January to March and also feted Regional Awardee for Visayas Angelita Dagoc of Ferangeli Guitar Handcrafter in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu; Regional Awardee for Mindanao Marcelina Occeña of Soup Wonder Herbal Oil in Compostela Valley; Youth Microentrepreneur of the Year Kevin Pacatang, a tablea and coffee trader in Misamis Occidental; Special Awardee for Green/Sustainable Business Manuel Iwayan, a tire upcycler in San Carlos City, Negros; Special Awardee for Agri Micro-business Renato Mercado, an organic farming trader and advocate in Tanauan City, Batangas; and Special Awardee for Community Leadership Wilberto Dagame of Willmar Homemade Candies in Lipa City, Batangas.

MCPI Executive Director Allan Robert Sicat who attended the town halls for Navor and Occena said: "The CMA program continues to highlight the positive contribution of microfinance to the development of a more inclusive financial system responsive to the distinct needs of poor and low-income households. Reporting of these stories of success through town hall celebrations will inspire fellow microfinance clients to strive for similar success that ultimately strengthens and transforms communities."

The CMA is a yearly collaboration between the BSP, MCPI and Citi Philippines. Funded by the Citi Foundation, the CMA gives recognition to outstanding microfinance clients who have used microfinance and entrepreneurship to improve their lives as well as their communities. Since 2002, the CMA has awarded some 120 Filipino men and women, highlighting their significant contribution to uplifting microfinance and enterprise development in the country. ♦



RICHEL AND HUSBAND RAUL ARE FLANKED HERE BY CITI PHILIPPINES DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP ANETH LIM AND FIRST MACRO BANK PRESIDENT REGINALD OCAMPO.



(L-R) EDUARDO C. JIMENEZ, BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS MICROFINANCE CONSULTANT; CARMELITA B. BILAOEN, PEOPLES BANK OF CARAGA PRESIDENT; MARCELINA OCCEÑA, 2016 CMA REGIONAL AWARDEE FOR MINDANAO; AND ALLAN ROBERT I. SICAT, MCPI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.



2016 CITI MICROENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS NATIONAL AWARDEE HONIE KRIZIA NAVOR

## ugnayan

is published by the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2017 by MCPI.

Address all correspondence and inquiries to:  
MCPI Secretariat  
Unit 1909 Jollibee Plaza Condo.  
F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center  
1605 Pasig City.  
Tel. Nos.: (+632) 631-5920, 631-6184  
Email:  
secretariat@microfinancecouncil.org

Facebook: Microfinance.Council  
Twitter: MFCouncilPHL