

# ugnayan

## Stakeholders “Go Back to Basics” in 2018 MCPI Annual Conference



Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairperson Emilio Benito Aquino led the oath taking of the newly-elected MCPI Board of Trustees for 2018 - 2019. (From left) Mr. Eduardo C. Jimenez, Ms. Ma. Theresa Catipay, Dr. Cecilia del Castillo, Mr. Josef Leron, SEC Chairperson Aquino, Fr. Jose Victor E. Lobrigo, Mr. Kamrul H. Tarafder, Mr. Angelo B. Solarte, Mr. Gadwin E. Handumon, Mr. Rolando B. Victoria, and Mr. Allan Robert I. Sicat.

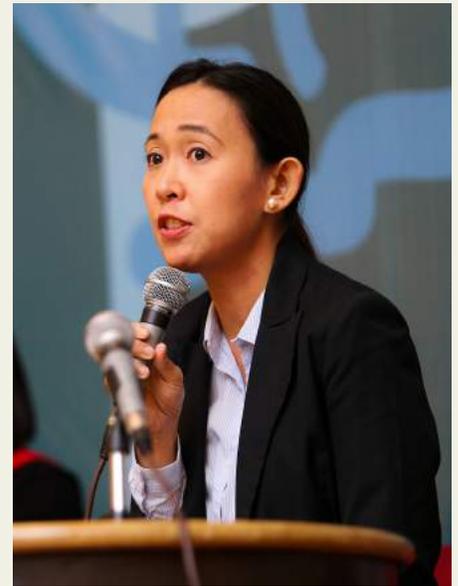
Microfinance stakeholders gathered anew for the Annual Conference of the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI) held on July 26-27, 2018 at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. Around 570 microfinance practitioners (NGOs, banks, cooperatives, finance and lending companies), funders, government institutions, donors, investors, and other developmental organizations participated in discussions that centered on this year's conference theme Going Back to Basics.

The two-day conference highlighted four session tracks – Social Performance and Client Protection, Compliance with Regulation, Products and Services, and Competition – that guided dialogues on the changes in the nature of microfinance in the Philippines, and how a client-responsive approach to the delivery of services could take the microfinance sector to greater heights and respond to the needs of the poor and low-income households in the country.

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In his keynote message, Chairperson Emilio Benito Aquino of the Securities and Exchange Commission said: “MF NGOs provide millions of Filipinos a real chance to escape poverty. MF NGOs have a unique understanding of the needs of Filipinos and provide a lifeline, and help create a better future for Filipino families.”



During the opening plenary, pioneers of Philippine microfinance set the tone and context for the conference as they shared successes and challenges in the past 30 years; and tackled enduring issues and the future of microfinance. Digital financial inclusion, client-centric housing, water and sanitation, and clean energy initiatives for the low-income sector, as well as value chain financing program for small farmers were presented in the succeeding sessions. Client welfare was foremost in conversations during sessions on responsible inclusive finance and mechanisms for complaints resolution. Issues and concerns related to competition among MFIs, and human resources were voiced in facilitated discussions on addressing competition in the field and treating employees responsibly. On the industry level, breakout sessions on Microfinance NGO Regulatory Council Supervision for 2019 and Understanding Data Privacy for Financial Institutions were explained in detail.

Leading up to the conference, MCPI organized a two-day Responsible Inclusive Finance Introductory Training for MFIs on July 24-25, 2018 in partnership with Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA) and the Social Performance Task Force (SPTF). Another pre-conference event, the Corporate Governance and Board Committees Orientation Workshop was also organized by MCPI on July 25, 2018 with support from ADA.

Members of the Board of Trustees were elected during the Annual General Meeting of Members held on July 25, 2018. During the conference, the following members of the board took their oath of office: Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo of SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-assenso, Inc., Chairperson; Mr. Eduardo C. Jimenez of Kabalikatan sa Maunlad na Buhay, Inc., Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Josef M. Leron of CARD, Inc., Corporate Secretary; Mr. Kamrul H. Tarafder of ASA Philippines Foundation, Treasurer; Mr. Angelo B. Solarte of Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc., Internal Auditor; and Dr. Cecilia

D. del Castillo of Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc., Ms. Ma. Teresa G. Catipay of RAFI Micro-finance, Inc., Mr. Gadwin Handumon of Paglaum Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and Mr. Rolando B. Victoria of Alalay Sa Kaunlaran, Inc. as Members. The Trustees will serve until July 2019.

Presentations during the 2018 Annual Conference can be downloaded here: <http://www.microfinancecouncil.org/2018-annual-conference-materials-and-presentations>.

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# 16th Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards launched

*The search is on and nominations are underway for the most inspiring micro business owners nationwide.*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) governor Nestor A. Espenilla, Jr. and Citi Philippines CEO Aftab Ahmed jointly announced the launch of the 16th Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards (CMA) during the recently held annual conference of the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI).

Since its inception in 2002, the CMA program, a partnership among BSP, Citi Philippines, and MCPI and with funding support from Citi Foundation, has been steadfast in its commitment towards recognizing entrepreneurs who have beat the odds, lifting themselves and others out of poverty. The awards also recognize the strong support from microfinance institutions as key partners, underscoring the role these organizations play in financial inclusion and enterprise development. In his keynote speech, Governor Espenilla took note of how digital technology has made an impact in the development of microfinance in the country. “The digital revolution is fundamentally reshaping the financial inclusion landscape and traditional financial value chains,” he said. “Rapid digital innovations in financial technologies have led to the emergence of more dynamic business models.”

“Amidst all the talk of technology and disruption, it is only appropriate that we continue to showcase inspiring stories through the Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards, which has served as a vehicle for inspiring microentrepreneurs nationwide to achieve greater heights,” said Espenilla.

The event saw the introduction of the commemorative book “From Modest Dreams to Microentrepreneurial Triumphs,” which shares success stories of past CMA winners, inspiring tales of winning against adversity through hard work and perseverance.



(L-R) Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. chair Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo; Citi Philippines CEO Aftab Ahmed and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Nestor Espenilla, Jr.

In his remarks, Citi’s Ahmed said: “The Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards are about the passion, energy, and commitment of microentrepreneurs who want to do better for themselves and their families. At Citi, we are proud to help people pursue their dreams because we are committed to making a difference in the communities where we live and work.”

Governor Espenilla and Aftab Ahmed serve as co-chairpersons of the CMA National Selection Committee. Other members include industry and community leaders such as Ayala Corporation president Fernando Zobel de Ayala; RFM Corporation president and CEO Jose Ma. Concepcion III; GMA Network, Inc. chairman and CEO Atty. Felipe Gozon; Philippine Daily Inquirer former chairperson Marixi Rufino-Prieto; Department of Trade and Industry secretary Ramon Lopez; SPARK! Philippines trustee Imelda Nicolas; SM Investments Corporation vice chair Teresita Sy-Coson; Voyager Innovations, Inc. president Orlando Vea; National MSME Development Council - Mindanao Private Sector representative Mary Ann Montemayor; and University of the Philippines Diliman chancellor Dr.

Michael Tan.

The awards are open to microenterprises with business assets up to PhP3 million. The award categories are Microentrepreneur of the Year Award, regional awardees from the three major island groups (Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao), Youth Microentrepreneur of the Year, and special awards for agri micro-business, community leadership, and green/sustainable business.

The national winner of the Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards will receive PhP200,000 while the three regional awardees, the youth awardee, and special awardees will each get PhP100,000. The loan officers and MFI branches of each awardee are also given a cash incentive of PhP10,000. Semi-finalists will receive a cash incentive of PhP10,000.

In addition to cash prizes, long-term sustainability of the winning microenterprises is of vital importance, thus, entrepreneurship training and mentoring is also provided at the Citi Microenterprise Development Center.