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2021 MCPI Annual Conference

Emerging from the Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities in the New Economy

August 18-19, 2021 | via Zoom

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Meeting ID: 820 0360 0126

Passcode: mcpi@2021

Session Tracks:

Opportunities in Digitalization

MFI Exchange

Products and Services

Day 1: 18 August 2021, Wednesday

[9 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.]

Opening Plenary

Invocation

National Anthem

Welcome Remarks

Mr. Eduardo C. Jimenez

Chairperson, Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc.

Keynote Message

Hon. Emilio Benito Aquino

Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Commission

[9.45 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.]

Plenary Session 1: Emerging from the COVID-19 Crisis through Digitalization

Technology has created benefits for consumers of financial services such as lower transaction costs, greater convenience, improved financial capability, and more. With more and more people reaping the benefits of digitalization and with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, it is hoped that the digital revolution will also spread to areas and people who need it most, including poor and low-income households. In this session, presenters from the BSP, CARD MRI and FinTech Alliance will discuss their strategic view on digitalization and the digital imperative in the new economy. The session will also examine opportunities and challenges in digitalization and how financial service providers can emerge from the crisis through digitalization.

Speakers:

Ms. Ellen Joyce Suficiencia, Director, Financial Inclusion Office, Strategic Communication and Advocacy, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Mr. Lito Villanueva, Chairman, FinTech Alliance and Chief Innovation and Inclusion Officer, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation

Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, CARD MRI

Facilitator: Ms. Lalaine Joyas, MCPI Consultant

[10.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.]

Future Proofing Financial Services

Mr. Bradley Pineda, MSME Group for Globe Business

[11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.]

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Digital Transformation Journey of Financial Service Providers

Prior to COVID-19 pandemic, digital transformation in the financial sector has been seen as a promising market potential in an environment with low penetration of financial services. In fact, the country has a maturing sector of financial technologies working across various services including mobile payments, remittances, online lending, and small and medium-sized enterprise financing. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country in 2020, a huge demand for contactless financial services and transactions was seen due to mobility restrictions and the rules of physical distancing, thus, highlighting the urgency of further accelerating digital transformation in the country. This session will focus on sharing of experience, key milestones, and lessons on digital transformation journey of financial service providers and networks. The session will also tackle how COVID-19 provided an opportunity to further improve their respective platforms for digital financial services.

Speakers:

Ms. Tanya Hotchkiss, Executive Vice President, Cantilan Bank

Mr. Paulo Honrado, President, Rural Bank of Guinobatan

Ms. Sylvia Paraguya, Chief Executive Officer, National Confederation of Cooperatives

Facilitator: Ms. Gay Santos, Water.org

Human Resource Management during the Pandemic

MFI Exchange: Facilitated discussion and sharing by MFIs on Human Resource Management during the pandemic

This MFI Exchange session will be a facilitated discussion and sharing of experiences on human resource management during the pandemic. This session aims to share HR strategies and experiences in managing employees and field staff while the COVID-19 crisis is on-going. The session will also be an opportunity to identify common practices on HR that can be consistent among different MFIs.

Resource Institutions: ASA Philippines, ASKI, CEVI, TSPI

Facilitator: Ms. Maria Anna Ignacio, KCoop

Achieving Safe and Healthy Business Growth for Women: Protecting Women and Children with Financial Services (Organized and Sponsored by Grameen Foundation)

As women entrepreneurs struggle to manage their businesses amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside household tasks and unpaid care work, they are turning for help to those closest in reach—their children. As their enterprises expand, they, their household and community members may be exposed to working conditions that endanger their health or safety. In this session, we will identify challenges that female entrepreneurs face in their path to success as business owners; unpack the research of unintended consequences of Women's Economic Empowerment programming; and

identify a pathway for taking practical steps to integrate child protection and business safety into financial services.

Speakers:

Ms. Amelia Kuklewicz, Regional Director for Asia and Latin America,
Grameen Foundation

Ms. Bobbi Gray, Research Director, Grameen Foundation

Facilitator: Ms. Beverly Brul, Grameen Foundation

Day 2: 19 August 2021, Thursday

[9 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.]

Plenary Session 2: Philippines Economic Outlook for 2021

The economy of the Philippines suffered a recession in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the country ended its longest recession since the 1980s debt crisis after the economy grew by 11.8% in the second quarter of 2021, the rising wave of the new COVID-19 cases is expected to constraint the pace of economic recovery as strict COVID-19 control measures have been imposed in the NCR and nearby provinces. In this session, a representative from the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) will present the current economic status, economic outlook of the Philippines for 2021 in the midst of the pandemic, and updates on the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).

Speaker:

Director Reynaldo R. Cancio, National Economic and Development Authority

[9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.]

Plenary Session 3: Emerging from the Crisis – Client Stories

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are continuing to confront the effects of the pandemic including disrupted cashflow and income losses. Despite these negative effects, MSMEs including microenterprises have shown resilience by repositioning their businesses and moving to alternative enterprises to adapt to the pandemic. In this session, two microfinance clients will share how they are emerging from the COVID-19 crisis and how microfinance and other support services are enabling them to adapt to new ways of doing business in response to the crisis.

Speakers:

Ms. Josephine de Lara – Client of RAFI Micro-finance and 2020 CMA COVID-19 Response Awardee

Mr. Keith Varias – Client of Inter-Asia Development Bank and 2017 CMA Youth Microentrepreneur of the Year

Facilitator: Ms. Jesila Ledesma, Consultant

[10.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.]

Using Innovative and Sustainable Financial and Global Solutions to Solve the Global Water Crisis

Speaker:

Ms. Gay Santos, Regional Director for Southeast Asia, Water.org

[10.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.]

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Understanding the Digital Economy: Challenges and Opportunities

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought an unprecedented negative impact to Philippine economy, it also highlighted the need to improve the country's

digital economy and promote its long-term economic growth. This session will present the respective analyses of the Asian Development Bank on the challenges and opportunities in digital economy brought by the pandemic. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) will also share their strategic view on digitalization, challenges, and growth opportunities with digital platforms and other technology-based tools, and how these can contribute to the economic recovery of the country.

Speakers:

Ms. Kelly Hattel, Financial Sector Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Trade Division, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Director Emmy Lou V. Delfin, ICT Industry Development Bureau, Department of Information and Communications Technology

Facilitator: Dr. Ma. Piedad Geron, Consultant

MFI Operations in the Midst of the Pandemic

MFI Exchange: Facilitated discussion and sharing by MFIs on Operations

This MFI Exchange session will be a facilitated discussion and sharing of experiences on strategies on operations in the midst of the pandemic. This session will highlight how MFIs have responded to the crisis including how they have adjusted operations, client-relations, and scaled-up remote channels to reach customers despite physical and social-distancing guidelines.

Resource Institutions: ASHI, KCoop, KMBI, NWTf

Facilitator: Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo, SEDP-Simbag

Emerging from the Crisis: Microinsurance in the New Economy

COVID-19 has not only affected the health of millions; it has also impacted people's livelihoods and jobs. During these challenging times, it is important that people know they are covered if something were to happen. By some measure, this pandemic has helped create greater awareness on the importance and benefits of having insurance coverage. In this session, Justin Arcenas of CashKo Insurance Brokerage will discuss voluntary insurance and its relevance in the new economy. Junjay Perez of MiMAP (RIMANSI) will share updates on Microinsurance Mutual Benefit Associations (Mi-MBAs) in the country, and their response and thriving initiatives during this pandemic.

Speakers:

Mr. Justin Arcenas, Managing Director, CashKO Insurance Brokerage

Mr. Junjay Perez, Executive Director, Microinsurance MBA Association of the Philippines (MiMAP)

Facilitator: Mr. Lyndon Soresca, RuralNet, Inc.

[12 p.m. – 12.30 p.m.]

Closing Plenary

Closing Remarks

Hon. Benjamin E. Diokno

Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Raffle