

2022 MCPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE



MICROFINANCE: THRIVING THROUGH UNCERTAINTIES

AUGUST 24-25, 2022 | CENTURY PARK HOTEL, MANILA



Organized by:



Sponsored by:



2022 MCPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MICROFINANCE: THRIVING THROUGH UNCERTAINTIES



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The MCPI conference is an event that brings together key microfinance stakeholders to discuss important developments and relevant issues affecting the sector. This year, MCPI is holding an in-person conference with the theme ***Microfinance: Thriving through Uncertainties***. In this event, we will discuss how the microfinance sector have become more resilient and relevant during uncertainties such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic shocks, and natural disasters. The conference will put a spotlight on the role of MFIs in economic recovery through financial and non-financial services.

SESSION TRACKS



PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT

23 August 2022, Tuesday

[1 p.m. – 4 p.m.]

MCPI Annual Membership Meeting (For MCPI Members Only)

Venue: Corregidor B Room / Zoom

DAY 1

24 August 2022, Wednesday

[8 a.m. – 9 a.m.]

Registration

[9 a.m. – 10 a.m.]

Opening Plenary

Invocation

Welcome Remarks

Eduardo C. Jimenez

Chairperson, Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc.

Keynote Message

Felipe M. Medalla

Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Oath-taking of the MCPI Board of Trustees, 2022 – 2023

DAY 1

24 August 2022, Wednesday

[10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.]

Coffee Break

[10.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.]

Plenary Session 1: Survive, Adapt, and Thrive: Lessons from MFIs

At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, many thought that the pandemic would endanger the microfinance sector because of its “high-touch, low tech” business model. However, MFIs managed to not only survive this crisis – they have become more resilient and relevant to communities they serve. In this session, leading MFIs will share how their institutions have adapted during crisis and how microfinance is playing a vital role in the recovery and sustainability of communities where MFIs operate.

Mr. Kamrul H. Tarafder, President and CEO, ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc.

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

Mr. Jonar Dorado, Chief Operating Officer, RAFI Micro-Finance, Inc.

Facilitator: Ms. Lalaine Joyas

[12 p.m. – 1 p.m.]

Lunch Break

[1 p.m. – 1.45 p.m.]

Sponsor Session

Accelerating Financial Inclusion through Great Digital Experience

Mr. Andrei Mortos, Regional Sales Director for South-East Asia and Oceania, Bankingly

Making Microinsurance More Customer-Centric

Mr. Justin Arcenas, Managing Director, RuralNet, Inc.

DAY 1**24 August 2022, Wednesday**

[1.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.]

Plenary Session 2: Opportunities in Digitalization

Digitalization has been driving transformative change in the new economy. Digital technologies and innovations are reshaping the market and shifting enterprises to a more efficient business model. This session will focus on key topics that cover trends and opportunities in digitalization for microfinance institutions and their clients. Accion will share their global insights on trends and opportunities for the financial sector to fully leverage digitalization for growth and sustainability. UBX Philippines will provide their strategic view on digitalization and how technology-based tools can contribute to the resilience of microfinance institutions. Lastly, Bayan Academy will share their programs on digitalization and opportunities for microfinance clients in tapping digital technologies, platforms, and innovations to further grow their enterprise.

Mr. Abhishek Agrawal, PhD, Chief Regional Officer, Accion International

Mr. Jaime Garchitorea, Managing Director for Payments & Commerce, UBX Philippines

Mr. Basil Ronald Soriao, Executive Director, Bayan Academy

Facilitator: Dr. Ma. Piedad Geron

[3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.]

Coffee Break

24 August 2022, Wednesday

[3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.]

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS*****Protecting and Increasing the Resilience of Microfinance Clients****Venue: Ballroom*

The COVID-19 crisis exposed how microfinance clients are most vulnerable to economic shocks. With social performance management as a framework, microfinance institutions responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by designing financial and non-financial products and services that help protect clients and increase their resilience. In this session, representatives from CARD MRI and K-Coop will share their initiatives and programs that help clients become more resilient and sustainable in times of crisis, particularly during the pandemic.

Ms. Evelyn Narvaez, Research Director, CARD MRI

Ms. Maria Angeline Bataller, Assistant General Manager for Operations, Kabuhayan sa Ganap na Kasarinlan Credit and Savings Cooperative

Facilitator: Ms. Jesila Ledesma

***MFI Exchange: Portfolio Management****Venue: Kachina Room*

One of the key factors in the success of every microfinance institution is the efficient management of its loan portfolio. In this MFI Exchange session, three MFI representatives will share practices and strategies on managing a healthy loan portfolio, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Ferdinand Jikiri, Senior Director II, ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Gilbert Maramba, Assistant Director for Operations, Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Fe Bataller, Director of Operations, SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-asenso, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO)

Facilitator: Ms. Jane Manucdoc, ASKI Microfinance

DAY 2

25 August 2022, Thursday

[9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.]

Plenary Session 3: Philippines Economic Outlook

In 2021, the economy of the Philippines, as measured by its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accelerated to 5.6% compared to a contraction of 9.5% in 2020. Despite high inflation, the government is confident that the country's 2022 growth targets remain achievable. According to the Asian Development Bank, the Philippine economy will grow at least 6.5% in 2022, which is higher than initially expected because of the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, expansion of COVID-19 vaccination, and rebound in investment and household consumption. In this session, a representative from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) will present the latest developments in the economic performance of the country, and the economic outlook of the Philippines for 2022 and succeeding years.

OIC-Assistant Secretary Reynaldo Cancio, Policy and Planning Group,
National Economic and Development Authority
Facilitator: Mr. Eduardo C. Jimenez, MCPI/KMBI

[10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.]

Sponsor Session

Plan B...Enterprise in Usual Times
Mr. Josell Valenton, Impex Officer, Power4All

[10.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.]

Coffee Break

DAY 2

25 August 2022, Thursday

[11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.]



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MFIs at the Forefront: Highlighting the Role of MFIs in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Venue: Ballroom

In the country, financing disaster risk reduction has heavily relied on international, national, and local government funding. However, the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 pandemic along with the worsening effects of climate-induced and natural hazards has highlighted how we may have been underestimating resilience building. This session will facilitate sharing of experience from Kabuhayan sa Ganap na Kasarinlan Credit and Savings Cooperative (K-Coop), Community Economic Ventures, Inc. (CEVI), and RAFI Micro-Finance, Inc. in integrating DRRM objectives in strategy formulation and building partnerships for DRRM program implementation.

Ms. Ma. Rosario Apostol, Executive Director,
Community Economic Ventures, Inc. (CEVI)

Mr. Dexter Flores, General Manager, Kabuhayan sa Ganap na Kasarinlan
Credit and Savings Cooperative

Ms. Ailyne Lim, Vice President for Operations, RAFI Micro-Finance, Inc
Facilitator: Mr. Junjay Perez, MIMAP



DAY 2

25 August 2022, Thursday

[11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.]



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MFI Exchange: Internal Audit and Fraud Prevention

Venue: Kachina Room

The contribution of internal audit in the overall governance and risk management of microfinance institutions is essential in ensuring the efficiency, compliance, and the improvement of the operations of the MFIs. This exchange session is a platform for MFIs to share their best practices on the development and implementation of their respective internal audit policies and fraud prevention measures. The session will also be an opportunity for experience sharing among participants on their own internal audit and fraud prevention challenges against the backdrop of a changing financial landscape.

Ms. Mary Joy Caisip, Internal Audit Head, Ahon Sa Hiras, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO)

Ms. Mary Joy Agcaoili, Compliance Department Head, Alalay Sa Kaunlaran Microfinance Social Development Inc.

Mr. Josef Leron, Director for Compliance, CARD, Inc.

Facilitator: Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo

[12.30 – 1.30 p.m.]

Lunch Break

DAY 2

25 August 2022, Thursday

[1.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.]



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Inclusive Growth through Agriculture and Green Finance

Venue: Ballroom

Climate change has made the Philippines more vulnerable to natural hazards and unpredictable weather. Its ripple effects on agriculture demand timely and appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to prevent damages and losses that threaten food security in the country. In the energy sector, the hand in hand increase of population and temperatures naturally increases energy demand – a demand that is met with energy supply that is reliant on fossil fuels. In this session, discussions by speakers from Alliance of Biodiversity and CIAT, Peace and Equity Foundation, and SEDP-Simbagsa Pag-Asenso, Inc. will center on how organizations, such as financial service providers, can contribute in bridging the gap and addressing development challenges such as climate change, agriculture and food security, and energy access. Focus is also given to the green inclusive finance approach and the current opportunities in developing and integrating sustainable green financial and non-financial services in microfinance institutions.

Mr. Godefroy Grosjean, PhD, Climate Action/Global Leader Advisory Services, Alliance of Biodiversity and CIAT

Mr. Roberto Calingo, Executive Director, Peace and Equity Foundation

Ms. Ella Gonzalo, Regional Operations Officer, SEDP-Simbagsa Pag-Asenso, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO)

Facilitator: Ms. Anna Ria Manahan, Microfinance Council of the Phils., Inc.

[1.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.]



Breakout Sessions

MFI Exchange: Human Resource Management

Venue: Kachina Room

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

Ms. Marie Sharon Roxas, Senior Director for Support Services, CARD MRI

Ms. Hazel Bayaca, Deputy Executive Director – Transformation Development and Training Group, Kabalikat para sa Maunlad na Buhay, Inc.

Ms. Raquel A. Cambe, Director for HRD, ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Facilitator: Mr. Ritzie Mar Apaitan, Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc.

[3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.]

Coffee Break

[3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.]

Closing Plenary

Thriving through Uncertainties – Client Stories

Despite the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, economic shocks, and natural disasters, microenterprises have shown resilience by adjusting their businesses and by using new strategies to adapt to the new ways of doing business. In this session, microfinance clients will share their journey on how they have emerged from uncertainties and how microfinance and other support services are enabling them to become more resilient and sustainable.

Ms. Florence Ao-wat, ASKI client and 2020 CMA winner

Ms. Jocelyn Sumiran, CARD MRI client

Ms. Milagros Hiyas, TSPI client and 2012 CMA winner

Facilitator: Ms. Maria Anna Ignacio

Closing Remarks

Raffle