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Stronger Together: Microfinance Industry Unites Toward Resilience at MCPI Conference

On August 12-13, 2026, MCPI organized the 2026 MCPI Annual Conference at the Century Park Hotel Manila, which was attended by more than 500 microfinance leaders, policymakers, and development practitioners. With the theme “From Recovery to Resilience: Shaping the Next Chapter of Philippine Microfinance,” the two-day event discussed the role of microfinance institutions in building resilient communities and explored how Philippine microfinance can be better equipped to respond to risks, improve financial health of clients and their households, and drive sustainable growth.

The conference had three session tracks – Financial Health and Resilience, Digitalization, and MFI Exchange. The Financial Health and Resilience track allowed participants to discuss topics including sustainable risk management solutions, client protection, resilient leadership models, and clean energy solutions while the Digitalization track enabled attendees to learn about cybersecurity and digital resilience, inclusive digital transformation, and artificial intelligence. The MFI Exchange sessions focused on areas including integrated solutions for recovery and growth, and balancing responsible growth and financial sustainability.

MCPI Chairperson Eduardo Jimenez welcomed the participants as he officially opened the conference. Dr. Eli M. Remolona, Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, provided the keynote message. During the first plenary session, Dr. Jaime Aristotle Alip from CARD MRI, Jonar Dorado from RAFI Microfinance, Mercedes Faustino from Kasanyangan Microfinance Foundation, Inc. and Rafael Lopa from

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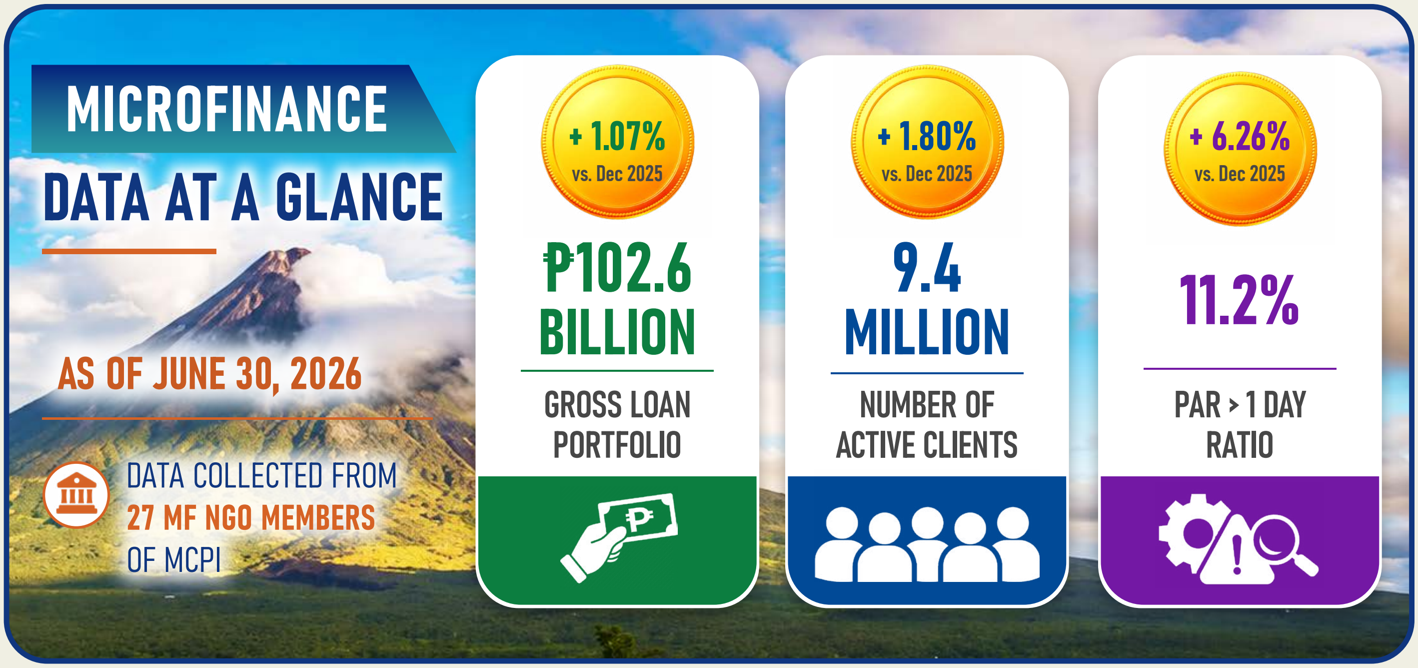
ASA Philippines Foundation shared strategies that their institutions adopted that enabled them to recover, adapt, and emerge stronger as they navigate various challenges and embrace change. Succeeding plenary sessions included topics on building financial health and resilience in Philippine microfinance and the emerging trends that will reshape the future of microfinance. During the closing plenary, MCPI Trustee Fr. Rex Paul Arjona provided key learnings from the 2-day conference as part of his closing message.

Preceding the conference, MCPI held its Annual General Meeting on August 11, 2026. Members of the Board of Trustees who took their oath of office were: Eduardo Jimenez of Kabalikat para sa Maunlad na Buhay, Inc. as Chairperson; Gilbert Maramba of Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. as Vice-Chairperson; Marilyn Manila of CARD as Corporate Secretary; Nilo B. Cellon, Jr. of ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc. as Treasurer; Jonar Dorado of RAFI Micro-Finance, Inc. as Internal Auditor; and Jeffrey Dela Cruz of ASKI Microfinance, Maros Apostol of Community Economic Ventures, Inc., Fr. Rex Arjona of SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-asenso, Inc., and Peter Montalban of Taytay sa Kauswagan, Inc. as Members. The Trustees will serve until July 2027.

Presentations can be downloaded here: https://microfinancecouncil.org/2026-annual-conference-materials-and-presentations/.

Photos can be accessed here: bit.ly/2026MCPIConPhotos.


MCPI Members at the
2026 Annual General Meeting

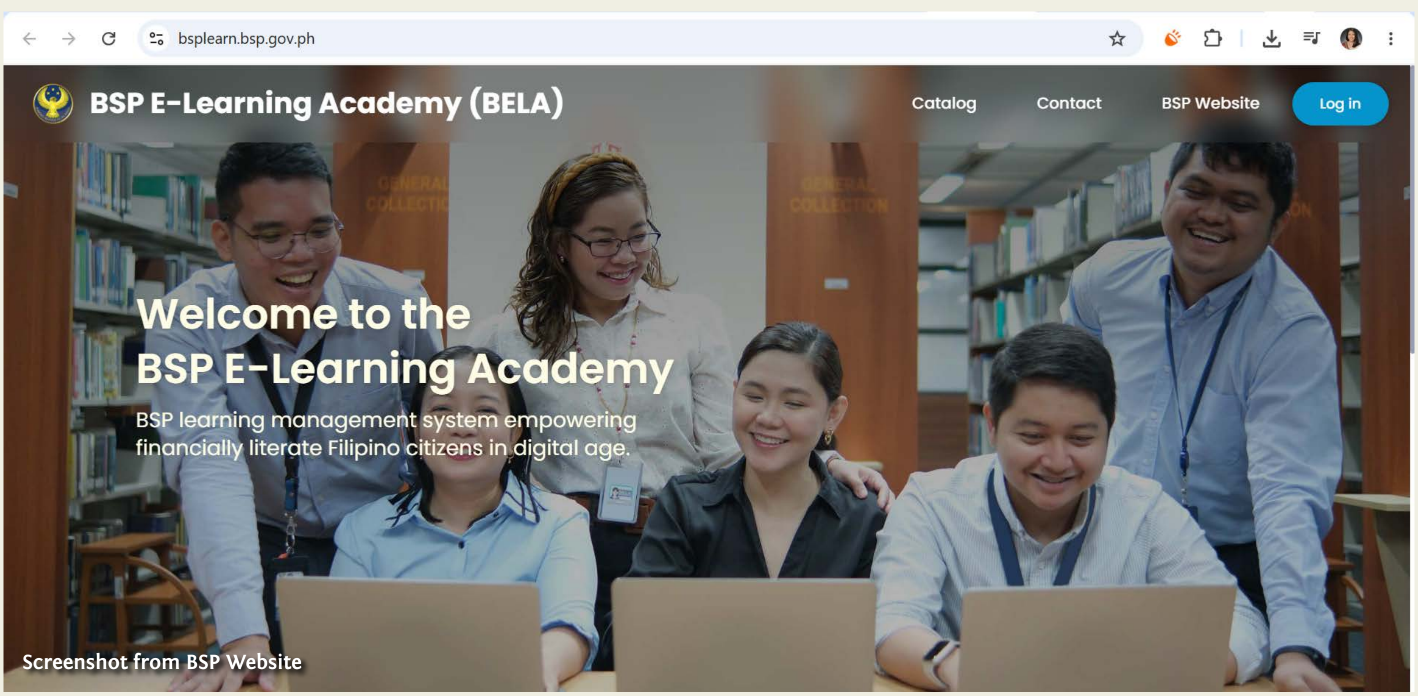


Learn Anywhere, Anytime with the BSP e-Learning Academy

MFIs serve clients who often rely on financial services to pursue better economic opportunities and grow their businesses. This makes it vital for MFIs and their staff to continuously strengthen their own understanding of financial concepts and responsible financial practices.

In 2025, MCPI and BSP signed a Memorandum of Agreement to strengthen financial education in the microfinance industry. The BSP e-Learning Academy (BELA) aims to expand the reach and accelerate the implementation of the BSP's economic and financial education (fin-ed) programs by providing a channel for free learning and teaching activities within a seamless and borderless environment. Its tagline, "Empowering Filipinos with tools to understand central banking and achieve financial freedom," encapsulates its core mission.

BELA can complement the existing training and development programs of MFIs by giving their staff access to learning resources on financial education developed by BSP. Check out BELA at https://bsplearn.bsp.gov.ph and explore the available resources and short courses.



Screenshot from BSP Website

Financing the Future of Housing

As a pre-conference event, MCPI, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity International, organized the Housing Microfinance Forum: Expanding Affordable Housing and Sustainable Settlements in the Philippines on August 11, 2026, at the Century Park Hotel Manila.

The forum brought together more than 80 participants from financial institutions, government agencies, development organizations, and other key stakeholders to exchange insights, share innovative practices, and explore collaborative approaches to expand access to affordable housing for poor and low-income households.

The forum featured sessions covering key challenges, policy frameworks, emerging trends, practical solutions, and future opportunities in affordable and sustainable housing. Sabha Khawaja, Regional Director of Habitat's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter, provided an overview of the housing landscape and opportunities for scaling housing initiatives in the Philippines. Mynard Bryan Mojica, Director of the Financial Inclusion Office of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, discussed the regulatory framework and current uptake of housing microfinance among banks.

Representatives from ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc., Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc., and RAFI Microfinance Inc., shared their approaches and experiences in providing affordable and sustainable housing microfinance to the clients and communities they serve.

The forum further explored the role of inclusive and technology-enabled housing finance in improving human settlements. Representatives from the Social Housing Finance Corporation, Pag-IBIG Fund, Lhoopa, and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation shared their respective housing programs and initiatives.

Habitat for Humanity International also presented their regional work and services, providing participants with insights into initiatives that support financial inclusion and access to housing finance across the region.

The forum highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration among key stakeholders to expand access to affordable housing and support the development of inclusive and sustainable settlements in the Philippines.