



**JULY 2008**  
**AMSTERDAM, BERLIN, PARIS, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG**

## **MICROFINANCE INVESTMENT IN ASIA: OPPORTUNITIES & POTENTIAL**

### **Presentation**

The growth of microfinance services over the past two decades has been dramatic. Today the total active portfolio of USD 30 billion reaches over 150 million people. The sector in Asia is particularly developed with a portfolio of USD 10 billion.

At the same time, microfinance is experiencing an investment boom as more and more private investors are getting involved. Between 2004 and 2007, foreign investment in microfinance institutions in developing countries more than quadrupled to reach a total of US\$5.7 billion<sup>1</sup>. However, investment flows in Asia remain limited compared to investments in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

To address this issue, PlaNet Finance has developed the Asia Invest project. The Asia Invest Project aims at matching European investors' financing capabilities with Asian Microfinance Institutions' financing needs. The goal is to provide European investors and Asian microfinance national networks and institutions with the necessary information, know-how, and tools to facilitate investments in thirteen Asian microfinance markets.

Activities include:

- Identification of promising microfinance institutions in Asia and training on investment readiness
- Research on regulatory framework in Asia and preparation of Investment Country Notes to support investment in the region
- Preparation of a "matchmaking event" gathering investment funds and promising MFIs during the Asia Microfinance Forum in Hanoi in August 2008

The Asia Invest project is sponsored by the European Union.

The Investment in Asia Cycle is co-sponsored by ABN Amro, Pöllath + Partners, Ernst & Young, Barclays and Deloitte,

### **European Business Talk Cycle**

In the framework of the Asia Invest project, PlaNet Finance is organizing a cycle of Business Talks to raise awareness on opportunities of investment in the microfinance sector in Asia.

Specialists from the microfinance sector will address the opportunities of microfinance investments in Asia. They will exchange views on present hot issues with investors, donors and microfinance institutions.

The breakfast talk cycle will take place in July in London, Paris, Luxembourg, Amsterdam and Frankfurt.

#### **Dates**

Amsterdam	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
Berlin	July 7 <sup>th</sup>
Paris	July 9 <sup>th</sup>
London	July 21 <sup>st</sup>
Luxembourg	July 25 <sup>th</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CGAP, *Foreign Capital Investment in Microfinance: Balancing Social and Financial Return, 2008*



## Key Topics

The conferences will specifically address following topics:

1. Introduction: Quick Update on the Microfinance Sector in Asia
2. Microfinance Investment in Asia: where do we stand?
3. Specificities of investment in Asia:
  - a. Great diversity country by country,
  - b. Adverse regulation in some countries
  - c. Local funding
  - d. Few big actors and many small ones
4. Opportunities
5. Country Focus (Cambodia, Philippines, India)

## Contact

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