

AMFOT NEWSLETTER 02/2010

NEWS

Results of AMFOT activities in 2010

The Association of Microfinance Organizations of Tajikistan (AMFOT) assembled MFI representatives, state authorities, international organizations, donors and investors on December 17th, 2010 to discuss the results of its annual activity. AMFOT staff members offered presentations on activities of the Association in 2010, social mission of MFIs, activities of Center of Training and Development of Microfinance of Tajikistan (CTMT) and on the annual external assessment of AMFOT's performance and answered the questions of the participants.



Update on the new MFI law

Upon receiving suggestions and comments on the new version of RT law „On microfinance organizations“ from AMFOT members and its discussions in the microfinance sector, the AMFOT Working Group prepared the final resolution about the law and presented it to the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT). At the same time, AMFOT suggested to organize a Round Table discussion on the new MFI law version with participants from NBT, RT Ministry of Justice as well as with representatives of international organizations.

Recently, NBT informed AMFOT about its willingness to conduct the Round Table discussion after receiving official comments and suggestions from governmental agencies. It is expected that NBT will be adjusting the new MFI law version to the official comments and will then present it to RT government for second readings and further procedures.

Activities of Credit Information Bureau

As already informed, first private Credit Information Bureau in Tajikistan (CIB) was registered in Dushanbe in April 2010. This institution was initiated by AMFOT together with six MFIs, four commercial banks, the National Bank of Tajikistan and the Swiss government and also with energetic support of IFC. In the meantime, CIB and IFC signed the Memorandum of Cooperation, upon which IFC will support and consult CIBT in the beginning of its practical activities. In December 2010 CIB has already filed a request for proposal to all well-known credit information companies worldwide with an offer of cooperation on CIB shares acquisition and provision of technical support.

IX National Conference «Microfinance in Russia on the Threshold of Change» in Moscow, Russia

Several AMFOT staff members took part in the IX National Conference of the National Association of Microfinance Market Stakeholders (NAMMS) and the Russian Microfinance Center «Microfinance in Russia

on the Threshold of Change: Lessons of the Crisis and New Opportunities» in Moscow, Russia. The conference took place on November 17th – 19th, 2010 and attracted more than 500 representatives from microfinance organizations, banks, the federal and regional authorities and international development institutions from Russia and other countries. Conference participants discussed microfinance regulations, conditions and practical examples of the use of innovation to increase the availability of financial services for the whole population and all business groups in the post-crisis environment in Russia and worldwide.

Meeting on Islamic Banking, October 2010

On October 13th, 2010, AMFOT hosted the meeting with the representatives of GTZ Regional Program “Support to Microfinance Sectors in Central Asia” and Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB). The main question discussed was how to implement Islamic banking and financing principles in Tajikistan. As a result, the participants agreed to develop a common approach to the promotion of Islamic banking products through MFIs, for example through offering trainings on Islamic banking for MFI employees.

Seminar «Warm comfort – microcredits for thermal isolation», September 2010

With support of GTZ / DED / CIM project “Sustainable management of nature resources in GBAO” and of GTZ project “Support to microfinance services in rural areas of Tajikistan”, AMFOT organized a free informative seminar on the topic «Warm comfort – microcredits for thermal isolation» on September 23rd, 2010. The seminar was conducted by GTZ consultants and informed interested MFIs about the product “Warm comfort”, technical aspects of thermal isolation and its financing through microcredits.

Agriculture Finance Baseline Survey

From June to September 2010, AMFOT conducted a survey on current agriculture financial services and environment in Tajikistan. During the survey, eleven large and middle-size MFIs and banks with representations in the Districts of Republican Subordination (RRP), Sughd and Khatlon Districts were questioned. The goal of the survey was to gather information on current financial services for agricultural businesses in Tajikistan and working conditions in this sector.

The survey was funded with a grant of „Productive Agriculture in Tajikistan” project (ProApt). ProApt is a five-year USAID project, which aims at increasing the productivity of traditional agricultural crops and strengthening the capacity and profitability of private sector agribusinesses in Tajikistan. The project works with selected value chains – it will help farmers by assisting them in overcoming barriers to market entry, by strengthening local service providers and by fostering competition in agricultural support services.

TRAINING CENTER

Training statistics for the 2nd half of 2010

In the second half of 2010, AMFOT Training Center has organized and conducted twelve trainings for MFO employees and professionals, interested in working in MFO sector. Seven trainings were conducted in Dushanbe, two in Khatlon, two in Soghd and one in Khorog region. Two of the above trainings were conducted by international experts: The training on Internal Controlling and Audit by Botagoz Sultanova and the training on Corporate Culture and Business Ethics by Gradislava Akhmetova.

CTMT Month of Knowledge

Following its opening ceremony on November 22nd, 2010, Center of Training and Developing of Microfinancing of Tajikistan (CTMT) invited everybody interested to participate in the Month of Knowledge briefing series. From November 23rd to 30th, trainers of CTMT and GTZ held one hour briefings on up-to-date topics of microfinancing in Tajikistan and informed the participants on new products and services for the financial sector. All briefings within the Month of Knowledge were free of charge. They were held in the CTMT training hall in Firuz str. 14, Dushanbe (CTMT office / AMFOT head office).

The Month of Knowledge briefings included following topics: Business start-up / MFO marketing / Microleasing / Key to successful microfinancing / HR and time management / MFO deposit products / Agribusiness / Internal audit.

The open briefings proved themselves as a very efficient instrument of promoting the new training topics for CTMT / GTZ trainers. Due to the high interest of the participants, several follow-up trainings will be conducted in Dushanbe in January – February 2011. In the beginning of 2011, it is also planned to organize the Month of Knowledge briefing series in Sughd and Khatlon regions in order to study the local training demand and to promote new training topics in these regions. You can obtain the information on Dushanbe Month of Knowledge briefing schedule under the following link:
<http://www.amfot.tj/tj/publication/Raspisanie.xlsx>

Forum of CTMT / GTZ trainers

On November 5th, 2010, CTMT and German Technical Cooperation GTZ gathered their trainers in Dushanbe for a teambuilding workshop. During the Forum participants and organizers discussed further perspectives of their cooperation and analyzed the development of demand for products and services in the microfinance sector in the next two years. As a result of fruitful Forum work, the participants defined important training topics, which will be offered by CTMT in the future. They also draw up a program of open briefings for the Month of Knowledge, which was conducted in the CTMT training hall in November 2010. In the last agenda point of Trainer Forum, an expert on market research consulted the trainers on methods and technics of successful training presentation.

Registration / opening of the Center of Training and Development of Microfinancing of Tajikistan (CTMT)

October 14th, 2010 marked the official registration of the Center of Training and Development of Microfinancing of Tajikistan (CTMT). CTMT was founded by AMFOT and is now an independent structure with the status of LLC. The goal of CTMT is to conduct high quality trainings on commercial basis with national and international trainers as well as to carry out surveys and consulting services. The CTMT office is located at AMFOT headquarters in Firuz Str. 14, Dushanbe.

The CTMT opening ceremony took place on November 22nd, 2010. During this event CTMT and AMFOT warmly welcomed their guests from member MFOs and financial and educational sectors as well as their international partner institutions in Tajikistan. The opening of CTMT also marked the beginning of the Month of Knowledge briefing series from November 23rd to 30th, 2010.



PUBLICATIONS

HORUS Development Finance (July 2010): Opportunity study for a Mobile Banking initiative in Tajikistan. Final Report