



Updated Magazine "Microfinance+"



We offer your attention an updated magazine "Microfinance +", - not only a news bulletin about available finances, but also a serious methodological guide for practitioners and theorists published in cooperation by the National Partnership of Microfinance Market Stakeholders (NAMMS) and the Russian Microfinance Center in cooperation with the Center of Payment Systems and Settlements Investigations and the Association of Russian Banks (ARB).

The magazine provides the microfinance market evaluation, both from the banks, and non-bank microfinance organizations. The magazine "Microfinance +" seriously and deeply gives consideration to the microfinance market retail services including the issues of applying new information technologies, such as mobile and internet banking.

There is a column "Question-Answer" which allows to have feed-back between the subscribers and the regulatory authorities (the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, the Central Bank of the Russian Federation). It is also important to note that the magazine "Microfinance +" publishes a lot of practical materials besides news or informational ones.

Detailed information about the magazine and subscription is available at the RMC website: <http://www.rmcenter.ru/projects/magazinmf/> and e-mails: m.ruchkina@paysyscenter.ru or okremneva@rmcenter.ru.

The Registration to the VIII National Conference on Microfinance is Ongoing

The VIII National Conference «The Role of Microfinance in Overcoming the Financial and Economic Crisis» to take place on November 17-19, 2009 in Moscow («Borodino» hotel) is coming on. More than 200 participants are registered to the Conference by 30 September.

This year, the main theme of the Conference will be the role of SME lending and microfinance in overcoming the current financial and economic crisis. Leading Russian policymakers and public figures, Government officials responsible for finance and economy, and top-level representatives of the Central Bank, top managers of international microfinance associations, credit cooperation, rating agencies, and development agencies have been invited to address the plenary sessions and thematic discussions. We are pleased to inform that the Nobel Peace Prize 2006 Winner, founder of the Grameen Bank, Co-Chairman of the Board of Trustees the National Partnership of Microfinance Market Stakeholders (NAMMS) Professor Muhammad Yunus is planning to speak at the conference opening plenary.

Also, the pre-conference events will be delivered during the conference: seminars «Government Regulation and Self-regulation of Credit Cooperatives: How to Form Sustainable SROs» and «Accounting and Auditing for MFIs» (on 16 November). The VII National Policy Forum for Microfinance will take place on 17 November. Updates on legislation regulating credit cooperatives, other microfinance institutions, small and medium-sized banks; taxation and AML issues will be discussed at the Forum Topics. The conference will traditionally feature the Investors' Fair for MFIs and exhibition and a contest in MFI Customers' Skills. The registration of participants is ongoing. You can register right now by following this link <http://conf.rmcenter.ru/2009/reg> and filling out a registration form.



To receive detailed information about the conference and pre-conference events, please, follow this link: <http://conf.rmcenter.ru/2009/>.

Russian Microfinance Center and the TRUST Bank Announce their Readiness to Invest Jointly in the Entrepreneurship Development in Russia

The Russian Microfinance Center (RMC) and the National Bank TRUST signed an Agreement about cooperation and partnership in the microfinance and SME support development sphere. In point of fact, it is a start of a large-scale social project aimed at widening the economic opportunities of individual entrepreneurship in Russia which influences directly the standard of well-being of considerable part of the population.

The partnership between the TRUST Bank and RMC supposes not only participation in the investment SME support programs, integration of the SME support programs in government and municipal programs, technological base development, raising the financial services availability for microbusiness, but also in awareness-raising work – organizations of thematic interregional and international conferences, seminars, and information-analytical programs. Moreover, the sides are planning to develop the projects on cooperation between TRUST Bank and microfinance organizations.

The All-Russian Forum «Russian Banks – XXI Century»

On 4-5 September 2009 NAMMS President Mikhail Mamuta participated in the All-Russian Bank Forum which was held in Sochi, Russia. Anna Popova - the State Secretary, the RF Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Alexander Tourbanov – the General Director of the State Corporation “Deposit Insurance Agency”, Aleksey Simanovskiy and Mikhail Sukhov - the members of the Board of Directors of the RF Central Bank, Aleksey Savatugin - Director of the RF Finance Ministry Financial Policy department, Aleksey Eskindarov - Director of Vnesheconombank's Department for Small and Medium Business Projects, other official establishment and representatives of banking community spoke within the framework of the Forum. NAMMS President spoke at the plenary session, devoted to the crediting of small and medium business, he told that the Federal Law «About Credit Cooperation» was passed, described the latest innovations in the sphere of microfinance, the initiated processes on self-regulating organizations of credit cooperatives creation, and also the progress of the government microfinance support program implementation.

The Forum was organized by the Association of Regional Banks of Russia (Association «Rossiya») and supported by the RF Central Bank, Vnesheconombank, Krasnodar Kray Administration and banks – partners. More than 450 people participated in the Forum.

Training News

Several RMC training events were held in September 2009.

On 14 - 16 September a training «Legal Aspects of Microfinance Activity» was held in Vladivostok. It was organized by the Primorsky Krai Association of credit cooperatives. On 21 - 26 September the JSCB «Microcreditbank» employees participated in the training «Loan officer training. Managing Delinquency and Establishing Interest Rates» in Tashkent. Lastly, on 25 - 26 September one more training devoted to the legal aspects of microfinance was organized with the support of the non-commercial partnership «Volga region League of Credit Unions» in Togliatti.

Accordingly, the RMC consulting trainings devoted to the legal aspects of microfinance and loan officers training remain highly sought by the microfinance community, particularly due to the RMC experts-trainers knowledge. Anna Baitenova and Marina Smartseva delivered the RMC trainings in September.

Please, contact RMC Training and Consulting Director Maria Pryamkova: pryamkova@rmcenter.ru about enrolling in RMC training courses.

More detailed information about the Forum is available at the Association «Rossiya» website: www.asros.ru.