



WORLD SAVINGS BANKS INSTITUTE



UN Year of **Microcredit** 2005

## WSBI YEAR OF MICROCREDIT CALENDAR 2005

### REVEALING THE KEY ROLE OF SAVINGS AND RETAIL BANKS IN THE PROVISION OF MICROFINANCE SERVICES WORLDWIDE

Since the launch of the UN Year of Microcredit 2005, the WSBI is actively participating in the various international activities organized by UNCDF and UNDESA (the United Nations coordinator team). Moreover, the WSBI itself is organizing several activities linked to the Access to Finance and the microcredit themes which portray our members as key contributors to enhance financial outreach in the world. The WSBI believes it is important to continue to convey the message of how savings banks and socially committed retail banks contribute to building inclusive financial sectors around the world in order to provide quality access to financial services for all.

The following calendar shows a taster of the activities that are currently being developed during the year. It is being updated frequently. The WSBI strongly encourage its members to play a pro-active role during the year and to share their activities in order to further promote the role of savings and retail banks in the provision of microfinance services.



Event organised by the WSBI



Event co-organised by the WSBI



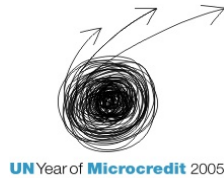
Event organised by other institution, with WSBI's participation

Dates	Month	Venue/ Region	Subject	Type of Activity	Participants	Organiser /Sponsor
28-29	OCT (04)	Brussels, BELGIUM	International Conference on Access to Finance	Conference	Over 300 delegates from close to 50 countries including WSBI members, other financial institutions, policy makers and academics	WSBI-World Bank
16	MAR	Manila, PHILIPPINES	Blue Book Asian Meeting	Multi-stakeholder meeting	Asian microfinance stakeholders, financial institutions, regional organizations	Year of Microcredit, ADB
17 - 18	APR	Santiago, CHILE	WSBI Latin American Regional Group Meeting "Savings Mobilization for the Low-income Sector"	Meeting	Latin American members, observer regional institutions (IDB, UN-ECLAC, CABEI)	WSBI/ Banco Estado
19-20	APR	Santiago, CHILE	Blue Book Latin American Meeting	Multi-stakeholder meeting	Latin American microfinance stakeholders, financial institutions, regional organizations	Year of Microcredit, WSBI

19-22	APR	Santiago, CHILE	Latin American Microcredit Summit	Microcredit Summit	Latin American members, policy makers, MF institutions, Others	M Summit/ Banco Estado/ Others
4-5	MAY	Geneva, SWITZERLAND	Blue Book Global Meeting: Building Inclusive Financial Sectors	Multi-stakeholder meeting	Microfinance stakeholders, financial institutions, governments	UNCDF, Year of Microcredit
19 - 20	MAY	Brussels, BELGIUM	Remittances and Financial Inclusion: Cross-regional perspectives	Conference	WSBI members, Policy makers, Regulatory bodies, Central Banks, Others	WSBI/ IDB (MIF)
20	JUN	Paris, France	High-Level International Conference on Microfinance	Conference	Microfinance stakeholders, financial institutions, governments	AFD, French Government, Year of Microcredit
21	JUN	Paris, France	"Financial Access for All: Better Measurement, Monitoring and Policy Action"	Panel Discussion	Governments, UN affiliated organisations, private sector	WB, DFID, UNCDF, Year of Microcredit
23-24	JUN	Frankfurt, GERMANY	2005 Financial Sector Development Conference	Conference	Microfinance stakeholders, financial institutions, governments	KFW, German Government, Year of Microcredit
27-28	JUN	KENYA	WSBI Africa Regional Group Meeting "Savings Banks: Pillars in Building Inclusive Financial Systems in Africa"	Meeting	African members, observers	WSBI
7-8	JUL	Hanoi, VIETNAM	WSBI Asia Regional Group Meeting "Retail Banking Policies in the Asia-Pacific: What role for retail banks?"	Meeting	Asian members, observers	WSBI
/	JUL	Brussels, BELGIUM	The Provision of Microfinance Services by Savings Banks. Selected experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America	Publication	/	WSBI
/	JUL	Brussels, BELGIUM	WSBI / WB Access to Finance Conference Proceedings	Publication	/	WSBI

28-29	SEPT	Lima, PERU	International Seminar on the Sustainability of Microcredit	Seminar	Savings and loans financial institutions, microfinance stakeholders	FEPCMAC
29 -30	SEPT	Lima, PERU	WSBI General Assembly	Simultaneous workshops: Remittances and Corporate Social Responsability	WSBI members, observers	WSBI, UN, IDB
5-7	OCT	Santa Cruz de la Sierra, BOLIVIA	VIII Microenterprise Forum	IDB Forum	Latin American members, microfinance institutions, regional development institutions	IDB
7-8	NOV	New York, U.S.A	United Nations Forum on Inclusive Financial Sector	Forum	Microfinance stakeholders, financial institutions, governments	Year of Microcredit
24-25	NOV	Bangkok, THAILAND	Microfinance International Conference "Empowering the Grassroots Economy: Microfinance for Growth and Happiness"	Conference	Asian members, microfinance institutions, regional development institutions	Government Savings Bank Thailand
29-30	NOV	Brussels, BELGIUM	Postal Savings Banks Forum	Meeting	WSBI Postal Savings Banks members and observers	WSBI

\*\* WSBI participation to be confirmed



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## **WSBI Key Contributions to the Year of Microcredit** (explained in detail)

**The Blue Book Initiative:** An extensive consultation process on how to build inclusive financial sectors is now taking place with the aim of publishing a "Blue Book" highlighting the obstacles and a policy agenda for the development of the financial sector. The outcome of the WSBI/WB Access to Finance Conference, the WSBI Access to Finance Resolution, and the WSBI-commissioned Access to Finance study, are now being taken into account for the chapters of the Blue Book, reflecting savings banks values and activities. Furthermore, the WSBI participated in the consultation process meetings known as "multistakeholders meetings". It was present in the Asian meeting in Manila-Philippines and co-organized with United Nations the Latin American meeting held in Santiago-Chile. (see calendar)

**The Data Project:** The WSBI intends to contribute to improving the data available on microfinance operations by sharing its information with expert statisticians and researchers from the Bretton Woods Institutions and the United Nations, together with governments and private sector players to address current data gaps, anticipate future needs, and build agreement on the best way forward. The WSBI will be present in the panel discussion coordinated by YoM, it will also continue its work on assessing the level of access at a country and regional level started with the Access to Finance Study. It will commission a follow-up study on the role of savings banks providing accessible finance.

**Institutional Support for the YoM:** The WSBI has created a special webpage presenting its contribution to the YoM and featuring a list of savings and retail bank members that provide microfinance services worldwide. The WSBI also promotes its members' active participation in all the events surrounding the year.

**Training activities:** The WSBI has for long offered specialized training to its members with the aim of further building banking capacities. Several of those trainings are directed towards institutions desiring to enhance their ability to reach population of all strata with quality services.

### **Publications foreseen on the occasion of the YoM:**

WSBI Perspective: Access to Finance Conference Proceedings

WSBI Perspective: The Provision of Microfinance Services by Savings Banks

The role of savings banks in providing accessible finance

Latin American Access to Savings Resolution

If you would like to share an event with us, please send your information to [angela.arevalo@savings-banks.com](mailto:angela.arevalo@savings-banks.com)

This document will be updated frequently.

For more on the UN Year of Microcredit please visit [www.yearofmicrocredit.org](http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org)

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