

DEVFINANCE

Discussion list on development finance of the Ohio State University

Monthly Review¹

September 2000

General Information

➤ Business process re-engineering and technology projects

DBS consult from South Africa is looking for firms with the capacity to manage and implement business process re-engineering and technology projects in Africa and Asia. A number of retail micro banking projects have to be scheduled in the new year that may involve a review of banking operations, redefining jobs and workflow, evaluation of the product delivery mix and training management and operations staff. Projects include software set up, data conversion, and training in conjunction with our technical staff. DBS consult is at this time not looking for individual consultants, unless these individuals have a relationship with an established firm that can meet our general performance requirements and qualify as a preferred supplier. An initial investment in technical training will be expected prior to supplying services in the first project.

Please contact Murray Gardiner from DBS Consult under: murray@dbs.co.za or visit the website www.dbs.co.za.

➤ Virtual conference from Oct 9-27, 2000

Microenterprise Best Practices (MBP), a USAID-funded project managed by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), will be sponsoring a virtual conference on microinsurance from October 9-27, 2000. The event will be co-facilitated by Warren Brown (Calmeadow) and Michael J. McCord (MicroSave Africa). The objectives of the virtual conference are: * To share more widely the results from recent research that have been completed on the topic of microinsurance. * To better understand the questions and challenges that are being faced by organizations attempting to develop microinsurance schemes. * To provide a forum for discussing key issues related to the provision of microinsurance. * To facilitate connections and

discussion between MFIs, commercial insurers, and other organizations interested in this topic.

To subscribe to this moderated listserve discussion, please send a blank email to join-microinsurance-vc@dai-listserve.dai.com.

➤ Report on "Roundtable on Microinsurance Services in the Informal Economy"

International Coalition on Women and Credit and SUM / UNCDF would like to announce the proceedings of the "Roundtable on Microinsurance Services in the Informal Economy: The Role of Microfinance Institutions" held on 21 July 2000 at the Ford Foundation in New York. The roundtable, a joint initiative of the International Coalition on Women and Credit and the Special Unit for Microfinance of UNCDF, created a discussion channel for microfinance providers and supporters to learn about specific experiences and strategies in the provision of microinsurance for low income entrepreneurs, particularly women. This report will hopefully be useful for your work and encourage further discussions and learning. It is available (for download in .pdf format) at the website of the United Nations Capital Development Fund www.undcf.org/sum/reports/papers/index.htm or www.undcf.org (SUM > Reports > Papers and Studies) and shortly at the website of Women's World Banking: www.womensworldbanking.org (Who we are > Learning and Change Networks > Coalition > Publications).

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Courses and seminars

➤ Announcement from SEEP

➤ Market Demand Workshop: A Business Development Service

➤ International conference in The Netherlands

¹ The most relevant articles of the discussion list are mentioned in the text with their author, date of issue and subject. They are to be found in the annexe, classified in the same order as they appear in the present text.

Publications

➤ Legal Papers Online by FAO

Development Law Service of FAO have brought out a new publication, which might be of interest to some DFNers. If you have ever asked yourself any of the following questions - What do they do over there in the Development Law Service (LEGN)? Why are they always travelling so much? Do we really need four (or six or eight or ...) weeks of legal consultancy/advisory technical services in this project? Why do we need a lawyer in this project at all? Can't our own technical experts do the job? – then the new publication now available in the FAO Legal Office's Legal Papers On-Line series may answer some of these questions. The paper addresses the needs for and the implications of legal analysis in assistance projects. Legal Papers Online are available in PDF format on the FAO Legal Office website. Go to the Legal Office homepage <http://www.fao.org/Legal> and follow the links to "Legal Studies" and "Legal Papers Online."

➤ Book review: Dollar diplomacy

Following please find an extract of J.D. Von Pischke's review on a new book (full mail is enclosed):
„Structural adjustment lending was the brainchild of Stanley Please at the World Bank in the early 1980s. Right or wrong? Right -- structural adjustment lending was a new term and a new operation for the Bank. Wrong -- structural adjustment efforts were undertaken by the French and British in the 1800s and by the Americans in the early 1900s in poorer nations over which they had or gained some control. Emily S. Rosenberg's FINANCIAL MISSIONARIES TO THE WORLD: THE POLITICS AND CULTURE OF DOLLAR DIPLOMACY, 1900-1930 (Cambridge: Harvard U. Press, 1999) explores the history of US efforts to rationalize economies of Latin American and Carribean republics and in countries in other areas through dollar diplomacy -- dollars instead of bullets. All in all, an interesting read on what now seems a somewhat bizarre episode in international finance, but which contained expectations, impositions and denouements echoed in current efforts at structural adjustment. Prejudice has clearly decreased, but lots of efforts to promote ³development² continue to be like ships that silently pass in the night.“

➤ Floods and the MF industry

➤ Financial Services Associations

Subjects of interest

➤ Risk management

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