



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

FINANCIAL INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

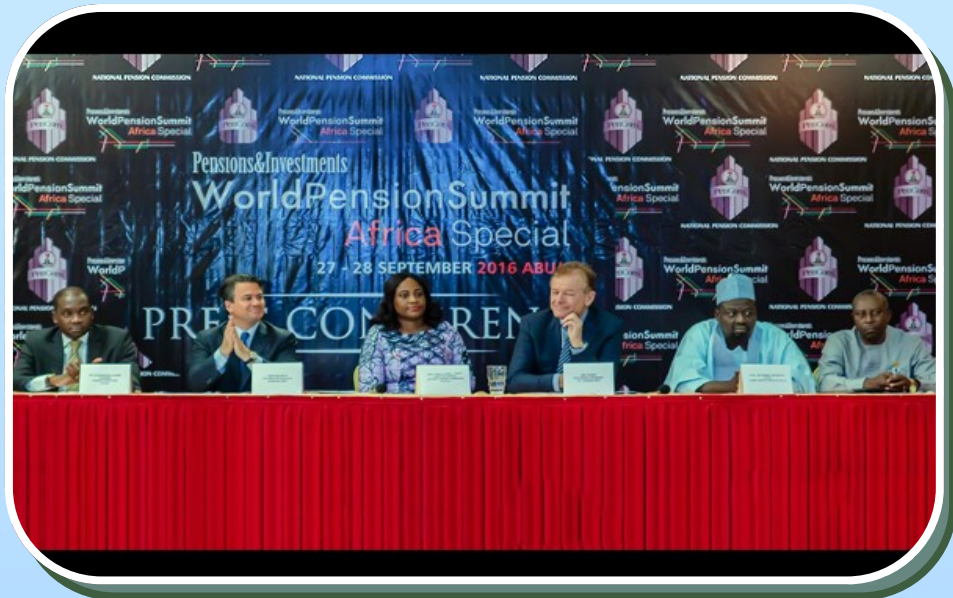
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Pension Experts gather in Nigeria as PenCom hosts the 2016 World Pension Summit 'Africa Special'

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L-R: Chairman of Pension Fund Operators Association of Nigeria (PenOp), Mr. Longe Eguarekhide; Chief Executive Officer World Pension Summit (WPS), Chris Battaglia; Director-General National Pension Commission (PenCom), Chinelo Anohu-Amazu and Founder WPS, Eric Eggink at the 2016 World Pension Summit 'Africa Special'

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201611040776.html>

The National Pension Commission (PenCom) hosted the 2016 World Pension Summit 'Africa Special' from the 27th–28th September, 2016.

The summit which is an annual specialized summit for Africa had in attendance key pension industry stakeholders from across the continent and the world.

Key among the speakers at the event were: former President Olusegun Obasanjo; Mrs. Chinelo Anohu-Amazu (Director General PenCom), Mr. Solomon Adegbe-Quaynor, Client Leadership Group with International Finance Corporation

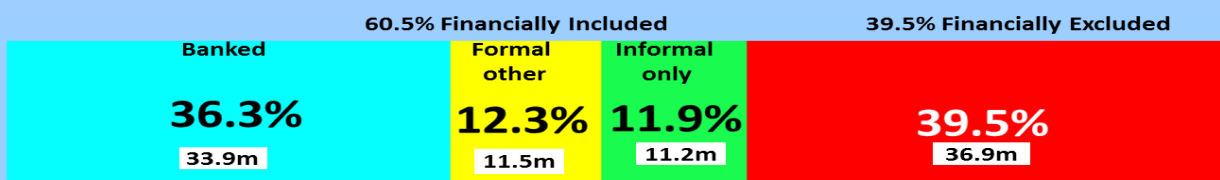
(IFC), Gov. Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna State; former Governor of Cross River, Donald Duke; among other speakers. Over 500 hundred delegates converged in Abuja for the third edition of the summit..

The summit focused on key industry issues including the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and the use of pension and social security systems as catalysts for generating long term investible funds to bridge Africa's infrastructure deficit. **These initiatives are expected to drive Nigeria's financial inclusion pension target of 40% of the adult population by 2020.**

The high point of the occasion was the double awards won by the National Pension Commission (PenCom). The commission was awarded best performed pension institution on Corporate Governance, and also one of the best performed in coverage and social economic impact in Africa.

Receiving the award, the Director-General of the Commission, Mrs. Chinelo Anohu-Amazu; said the emergence of PenCom as one of the best in coverage and social economic benefits was based on its ability to enforce compliance on operators in the industry and the introduction of reforms that led to the 2014 Pension Reform Act, which focuses largely on the under-served informal sector.

Financial Inclusion Status as at December 2014



Source: Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (EFInA)



National Financial Inclusion Governing Committee meetings to drive Strategy Implementation

3rd National Financial Inclusion Steering Committee Meeting



*Ag. Chairman
Dr. Joseph O. Nnanna*

The 3rd meeting of the National Financial Inclusion Steering Committee (NFISC) took place on Thursday, September 29th, 2016. Dr. Okwu Joseph Nnanna, Deputy Governor, Financial System Stability of the Central Bank of Nigeria; chaired the meeting on behalf of Mr. Godwin Emefiele, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria.

During the meeting, Mrs. Temitope Akin-Fadeyi (Secretary) delivered a presentation on the Progress Update on the National Financial Inclusion Strategy Implementation with the following key highlights:

Overall Inclusion Rate: The EFINA 2016 Access to Financial Services survey was currently being conducted and results expected by end of December 2016.

Completed Key Initiatives:

Insurance: NAICOM granted window micro insurance operation licenses to 17 insurance companies.

Pension: PenCom established a Joint Contact Group (JCG) to drive compliance with the Contributory Pension Scheme.

Agent Banking: CBN approved the Regulatory Framework for Licensing Super-Agents in Nigeria. Two companies have already been licensed.

Consumer Protection: NDIC extended deposit insurance to subscribers of mobile money.

Financial Literacy: The Joint Consultative Council on Education approved Financial Education to be taught in basic and senior secondary schools.

Non-Bank Microfinance Institutions: Members were trained on the Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN) Rural Business Plan and group formation for savings and credit in rural areas.

At Risk: These included delayed finalization of the Bancassurance guidelines by CBN and NAICOM, harmonization of identifications by the National Identity Management Commission.

The meeting featured presentations on strategic engagements, as well as approval to review the National Financial Inclusion Strategy in 2017.

The Committee also approved the 2015 Financial Inclusion Annual Report earlier vetted by the Technical Committee. [Download here](#)

https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2016/CCD/2015_Annual%20Report%20_NFIS_final.pdf

7th National Financial Inclusion Technical Committee Meeting



*Dr. Farouk Aminu (PENCOM)
- Ag. Chairman*

The 7th meeting of the National Financial Inclusion Technical Committee took place on Thursday, 22nd September, 2016. The meeting was chaired by the Head, Research and Corporate Strategy Department, National Pension Commission (PENCOM), Dr Farouk Aminu and had in attendance Directors and their equivalents from stakeholder institutions.

Key highlights at the meeting included the updates from the chairperson's of the Finan-

cial Inclusion Working Groups.

The Head, Strategy Coordination Office, Financial Inclusion Secretariat (FIS), Mr. Attah Joseph delivered a presentation on the strategic engagements during the period while Mr. Peter Olayinka (Head, Data Management Office—FIS) updated the committee on the 2016 half year status of financial inclusion indicators. Some highlights from the presentation include;

- The Financial Inclusion Secretariat held a data workshop for Deposit Money Banks, Microfinance Banks and Insurance Companies. The workshop held on August 22 – 24, 2016 at the CBN Branch, Lagos.
- The CBN participated at the 2016 Global Policy Forum (GPF) of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) held in Nadi, Fiji on 6th to 9th September, 2016 under the theme "Building the Pillars of Sustainable Inclusion."

At the end of the meeting the following

items were approved by the committee to be ratified by the National Financial Inclusion Steering Committee;

I. The Finalization of the Financial inclusion Strategy for the Capital Market by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

II. The Convening of a stakeholder forum by NIMC and CBN to ensure the success of the Harmonization of Identity Management system

III. The Finalization of the Bancassurance implementation Guidelines.

IV. The approval of the Consumer Protection Framework.

V. The adoption of the Financial Literacy Curriculum in Schools once finalized.

VI. The review of the NFIS strategy in 2017.



7th Financial Inclusion Working Groups Meetings



Hajjya Khadijah Kasim, Consumer Protection Department CBN presenting an update of the Financial Education Curriculum Development process to members.



Cross-section of members at the joint plenary session at the 7th Financial Inclusion Working Group meetings

The four Financial Inclusion Working Groups held their 7th meetings at the International Training Institute of the CBN in Abuja on 21st September, 2016.

The Working group technical sessions were preceded by a plenary session which included a presentation by Dr. Farouk Aminu Director of the Research and Strategy Management Department of the National Pension Commission (PenCom), on "Expanding Coverage of the Contributory Pension Scheme". The essence of the presentation was to deliberate on ways to increase the pension penetration in Nigeria and achieve the targets set in the National Financial Inclusion Strategy .

A presentation on the Financial Education Curriculum Development Process was also delivered during the plenary session by Mrs. Khadijah Kasim, Deputy Director of the Consumer Protection Department. The presentation featured updates on the Financial Education Curriculum Development process including the themes developed for infusion in the curricula of Basic and Senior Secondary schools.

The Financial Education themes developed which will be infused into various subjects include; **Money, Savings, Credit, Financial Landscape, Entrepreneurship, Insurance, Pensions, and Deposit Insurance.**

After the plenary session, the working groups had their individual meetings in which they highlighted some of the following issues:

The Financial Inclusion Products Working Group (FIPWG)

- 1. Implementation of Micro insurance and Insurance Protection Framework:** 17 licenses have been granted for micro insurance window operations.
- 2. Harmonization of Data Capturing for National ID:** A Budget for the Implementation of the project has been presented to the presidency for approval
- 3. Implement Mandatory usage of NIN:** NIMC is currently engaging with relevant stakeholders to adopt the use of NIN in their processes

The Financial Inclusion Channels Working Group (FICWG)

- 1. Implement the Shared Agent Network by licensing 5 Super-Agents:**
 - 2 Companies licensed as Super-Agents
 - Agent database deployed and completed by 10 out of 21 MMOs
- 2. Develop distribution channels for the capital market:** Specification document of the distribution channels drafted
- 3. Deploy internet access in 774 LGAs:** Study completed by NCC to determine need for internet provision. About 150 post offices connected to internet

The Financial Literacy Working Group (FLWG)

- 1. Financial Education Curriculum Development:** Stand-alone curriculum for financial education for Nigerian Schools developed for infusion into basic and senior secondary school subjects
- 2. Mass sensitization and awareness:** At least 11,492 adults sensitized on Consumer Education by several institutions
- 3. School reach out and mentoring:** CBN, Bankers Committee, SEC, NSE, NAICOM, PENCOM etc. had various engagements to enlighten school children on financial literacy

The Financial Inclusion Special Interventions Working Group (FIPWG)

- 1. Women Financial Inclusion: Biometric Data** of over 5000 women captured under cooperative groups
- 2. Youth Financial Inclusion:** Stakeholders Identified for NYSC Peer group educator programme.
Training content to be developed
- 3. People with Disabilities:** CBN collaborating with JONAPWD to prepare its members (PWD) for the Disbursement of MSMEDF



**SPOTLIGHT: OUTGOING FINANCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP
CHAIRPERSONS (2015 –16)**

FINANCIAL INCLUSION CHANNELS WORKING GROUP (FICWG)

It has indeed been a privilege to serve as the pioneer chairman of the FICWG and I am honoured to share some of the key initiatives under my tenure, including:



*Alhaji M. K. Umar
Rtd. Director, Branch Operations
(CBN) - Chairperson, FICWG*

1. Agent banking and mobile money: A Regulatory Framework for Licensing Super-Agents in Nigeria was released in 2015, two super-agents were licensed and additional applications are under review, an agent banking database was deployed and Guidelines on Mobile Money Services in Nigeria in 2015 were released

2. Internet access in all 774 LGAs: A study on the number and geographical distribution of across Nigeria was conducted by the NCC. The results revealed that 155 Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTS) would be required to cover 5.2 million people in 930 communities. Upon project completed, internet connectivity will facilitate wider digital financial services. Over 100 post offices have been connected to internet and the Nigerian Postal Service has piloted agent banking in three States.

3. Geospatial mapping of financial access points: The Central Bank of Nigeria and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation conducted the 2nd round of the Survey . The result is an interactive online map, available at www.fspmmaps.com, which helps regulators and financial services providers analyze the market landscape and identify gaps for new access points.

I would like to thank all Working Group Members for their support and at the same time, I would like to point out to my successor that challenges with respect to financial access points in Nigeria remain. The Geospatial Mapping Survey found that existing access points are over-proportionally located in regions with higher financial inclusion rates, and are under-presented in regions with low

financial inclusion rates, particularly North West and North East. Concerted efforts are required to bridge the identified access gaps.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION PRODUCTS WORKING GROUP (FIPWG)

FIPWG is tasked with addressing financial inclusion barriers relating to products and services. We have collaborated with Regulators, Industry Associations and Service providers to undertake key initiatives, including;

1. Enhance Regulatory Frameworks: engaged NAICOM on the development of stand alone licenses for Micro insurance; PENCOT on the implementation of the Micro pension plan, as well as the CBN on the Implementation of the Secured Transactions in Movable Assets and Collateral Registry.

2. Review product/service: Facilitated deliberations on the costing of USSD charges by Telco Operators, reviewed products deployed by market operators to advance financial inclusion.

3. Facilitate knowledge sharing: among Regulators, Industry Associations and Service providers towards the development and management of financial inclusion products and services.

My sincere appreciation goes to all members for the privilege of serving FIPWG for the period.



*Mrs. Hawwau Gambo
Principal Manager, NDIC
Chairperson, FICWG*

FINANCIAL INCLUSION SPECIAL INTERVENTIONS WORKING GROUP (FISIWG)



*Dr. Aisha Mahmood
Special Adviser to
CBN Governor,
(Sustainable Banking)
Chairperson, FISIWG*

Our mandate towards vulnerable groups in Nigeria remains the daunting task before FISIWG. Over the last two years, we have been privileged to work with cross-functional stakeholders to drive various initiatives , some of which include;

1. Women: Bank of Industry has launched the Fashion Fund to deepen access to credit among women entrepreneurs while the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development has undertaken capacity building programs for women groups.

2. Youth: CBN has partnered NYSC and Heritage bank to launch the YIEPD and enhance youth entrepreneurship, the Federal Ministry of Youth & Sports has also initiated plans to kick-off the Financial Inclusion Peer Educator program for NYSC members, leveraging on the Community Development programs nationwide.

3. People with Disabilities: CBN has collaborated with state governments, financial institutions and advocacy groups towards the scaling up the uptake of the 2% MSMEDF earmarked for people with disabilities.

I sincerely appreciate the honour of serving the group and wish the new Executives all the best.



FINANCIAL INCLUSION STAKEHOLDER ACTIVITIES

Microfinance operators advocate financial inclusion in Nigeria



The Second Edition of Microfinance 2016 Conference with the theme; “**Emerging Trends in Microfinance: Veritable Tool for financial inclusion**”, was held on Thursday, 21st to Friday, 22nd of July, 2016 in Zeus Hotel and Multipurpose Hall, Jabi, Abuja.

It was a convergence of the Financial Inclusion Experts, Vendors, Microfinance banks, Financial Institutions, Customers and Donors with the objective of mapping strategic paths to various economic issues that boarder on Financial inclusion,

Poverty Eradication, Employment and Wealth Creation, Empowerment, Rural outreach, Technology, Access to Market, Alignment to Federal Government of Nigeria Economic Plans and Access to Finance by both beneficiaries of BOP and the operators.

The President of NAMB & Chief Host, Mr. Valentine Whensu in his speech said, “The SPV is a veritable instrument for Federal Government, CBN, NDIC, Development partners, Investors to

pay more attention to as it is one of the structured, regulated and surest way for economic development of Nigeria”.

Speaking to the subsector, he said “we must create real, measureable, social and economic value for clients. For too long, many microfinance organizations have relied on credit as their primary product offering. Recent research demonstrates that the poor live far more complex financial lives than previously assumed.

We envision a microfinance industry in Nigeria that protects its clients, is transparent, measures and achieves social outcomes and impact.

challenge the Nigeria economic development and its negative impact on the financially excluded. He emphasized on the continuous need for economic development which in his words “must be usual, radical,

and sustainable”. He also commented on the need for proactive policies to be made by Government in order to make the Microfinance sub sector sustainable. In his conclusion, he charged the practitioners to re-invent the wheels in product delivery to the financially excluded and consistently ensure thorough and efficient management system.

Mr. Whensu also spoke on the urgent need for perception changes in the approach of dealing with the vulnerable populace. In his words, he said “*A big step towards eliminating poverty is therefore to make sure that financial services are offered even to the poorest person and that no one is rejected or excluded on the grounds that the person is too poor or that the new product lines is not available*”.

Source: NAMB Conference Report



Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies holds Round Table on Financial Inclusion

representatives from the Central Bank of Nigeria, Global Centre for Human Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria, SMEDAN sought to address salient issues including the implementation of the National Financial inclusion Strategy, Financial Inclusion and Micro Credit Banking System in Nigeria and Overcoming the Challenges of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through Financial inclusion.

During the roundtable session, the Director General of NIALS, Professor Deji Adekunle reminded participants that about 40 million Nigerians did not have access to any form of financial or credit scheme stating that the situation was not acceptable. He therefore beckoned on members of the institute to consider it urgent to develop a legal framework that would enhance access to

finance by those left behind.

He further stated that as the foremost legal research institute in Nigeria, NIALS would examine extant legislation to identify those that require amendments or outright repeal so as to remove legal and administrative impediments inhibiting access to financial and credit schemes by the masses.

Also at the roundtable, Mrs. Akin-Fadeyi, Head Financial Inclusion Secretariat discussed some of the key policies and initiatives embarked upon by numerous stakeholders to improve financial inclusion in Nigeria. She also commended NIALS on its efforts towards addressing legal impediments to inclusive finance in the country, noting that will enhance implementation efforts towards the 80% target by 2020.

In order to address the fact that millions of Nigerians are excluded from access to any form of financial or credit scheme, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) held a roundtable on the appropriate legal framework for financial inclusion in August, 2016.

The round table which had in attendance

Source: <https://www.pressreader.com/nigeria/thisday/20160816/281814283266213>



FINANCIAL INCLUSION STAKEHOLDER ACTIVITIES

Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN) takes Insurance Education to Kano State, Donates Textbooks to Emir of Kano and Kano State Government

As part of the efforts to improve insurance awareness and education in Nigeria, the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN) visited Kano State In October, 2016. During the visit, members of the CIIN paid a courtesy call to the Emir of Kano HRH, Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi II, CON at the Emir's Palace donating 100 copies of the Institute's published 'Insurance Textbook for Secondary Schools'.

While receiving the delegation, Emir lauded the efforts of the institute to improve awareness while iterating that insurance penetration in the country needed to improve as it was low compared to other countries. He therefore encouraged the institute to continue to scale up such activities in the area of insurance awareness creation in order to achieve the desired level of insurance penetration across Nigeria.

While in Kano state, the institute also donated 400 copies of the 'Insurance Textbook for Secondary Schools' to the Kano State Ministry of Education which was received by the Permanent Secre-



Chairman CIIN Kano Chapter, Mr. Mustapha Abba, CIIN President, Lady Isioma Chukwuma, Emir of Kano, HRH Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi II and CIIN Director-General, Mr. Richard Borokini during a courtesy visit to the Emir's Palace in Kano

tary of the Kano State Ministry of Education, Alhaji Danlami Garba.

The CIIN president, Lady Chukwuma who led the delegation stated that the donation was made as part of the institutes desire to further strengthen the teaching and study of Insurance in Nigeria. She further stated that CIIN was willing to partner with the Kano State Ministry of Education to train prospective insur-

ance teachers in Kano state on how to effectively teach insurance at the secondary school level.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Alhaji Garba responding to the presentation by the delegation stated that he appreciated the efforts of the institute at creating awareness in the state while assuring them the Kano state Ministry of Education will embrace the study of insurance as a sub-

ject in its schools and also encourage students to take up the subject. He also stated that in terms of partnering with the institute, the State government was willing to provide support to train prospective insurance teachers as the objective is to have at least one insurance teacher in each of the schools in the state.

The visit to Kano state culminated with the investiture of Mr. Mustapha Abba as the Chairman of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria, Kano Chapter along with other members of the Chapter executives. The President of the CIIN, Lady Isioma Chukwuma during the on Oath-taking ceremony of the executives charged them to offer selfless service by replicating the Institute's programmes and events on a local level.

Source: <http://www.businesstodayng.com/ciin-takes-insurance-education-to-kano-donates-textbooks-to-emir-of-kano-kano-state-gov/>

National Cooperative Financing Agency (CFAN) hosts 2nd CFAN Cooperative summit in Abuja

The National Cooperative Financing Agency of Nigeria, (CFAN) hosted its 2nd cooperatives summit in Abuja in September, 2016.

During the summit which had in attendance several government institutions and members of CFAN, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbah (represented by a Director within the Ministry) urged CFAN to increase its support for cooperative movements, as they are the vehicles for delivering goods to the rural populace.

The minister during his keynote address stated that while the Ministry recognizes its role in repositioning cooperatives to better deliver on their mandate, it was important for the



Participants at the 2nd CFAN summit held in Abuja

apex cooperative, to provide direction to issues affecting the movement and global best practices. He stated that there was a lot of work to be done by CFAN and that the Federal government was confident that they would deliver on

their mandates

He specifically noted that there was a need for the sub-sector to upgrade the Federal Department of Cooperatives to a full-fledged commission like the Corporate Affairs Commission with budgetary allocation. He stated that this would enable the agency deliver on its mandate since all government development efforts were geared towards the use of cooperative enterprises for service delivery to the common man.

Lastly he iterated that the Nation at large would be much better equipped to promote inclusive growth if Nigerians embrace the principles of cooperatives.

Source: <http://sundiatapost.com/2016/08/30/fg-urges-cfan-to-increase-support-for-coop-movements/>



FINANCIAL INCLUSION STAKEHOLDER ACTIVITIES

Diamond Bank launches agency banking business model 'Diamond Closa', co-hosts "Banking with Women Event"



Diamond Bank and Women World Banking Executives with a cross section of customers at the Diamond Closa Launch



CEOs of Diamond Bank and Women World Banking and the Former Minister of Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the Banking with women event

According to EFINA research findings in 2014, over 20m adult women are financially excluded in Nigeria. Several factors have been adduced to be responsible for this scenario. Top among these are reduced income potential, access to financial service points and low financial literacy.

To bridge this gap, Diamond Bank has continued to roll out innovative products targeted at making banking more appealing to women. The journey started with

BETA and Diamond Y'ello propositions.

Recently, precisely on August 26, 2016, the Bank launched her agency banking business model called Diamond Closa. With Diamond Closa channels, fixed agent partners of the Bank are prepared to ease the burden of financial exclusion for our citizens especially the women.

Women can now comfortably walk into Closa shops to make enquiries, open accounts and take advantage of availa-

ble financial services more conveniently in an affordable manner.

In a related development, the Board of Women's World Banking and the Executive Management of Diamond Bank co-hosted an event tagged 'Banking with Women' in Lagos to showcase how innovative financial products and services can promote women from poverty to prosperity.

Source: Diamond Bank Financial Inclusion Division

FINCA Microfinance Bank Unveils Product to drive Financial Inclusion



Mr. Philip Takyi
CEO, FINCA Microfinance Bank

As parts of efforts to encourage financial inclusion, FINCA Microfinance Bank Ltd Nigeria, has launched an initiative designed for trade-masters and craft businesses to settle funds for apprentices.

In the apprentice system, craft and trade masters sell their skills in craft activities

to the learner by providing training and necessary mentorship.

Many times, business owners have failed in their responsibility to settle their apprentice due to trust and lack of funds at the point of settlement, which have in many cases culminated into socio-economic and psychological trauma for the apprentices.

The initiative tagged, 'FINCA **Freedom Account**', is a savings account designed for trade-masters or businesses that need to settle funds for apprentices at the end of their apprenticeship

According to the bank, the product would be available to businesses that have apprentices. The trade master can open the account in the apprentice's name and will be the sole signa-

tory to the account. The account holders will earn a competitive and attractive interest rate on the account and the trade master determines how much to contribute and how long the account will run. This account comes with a 50 per cent of the accrued savings amount as start-up loan.

Speaking at the launch, Chief Executive Officer, FINCA Microfinance Bank Ltd Nigeria, Philip Takyi, said the product was developed as part of its commitment to serve the unbanked and its commitment to raise the next army of entrepreneurs in Nigeria.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201609280249.html>



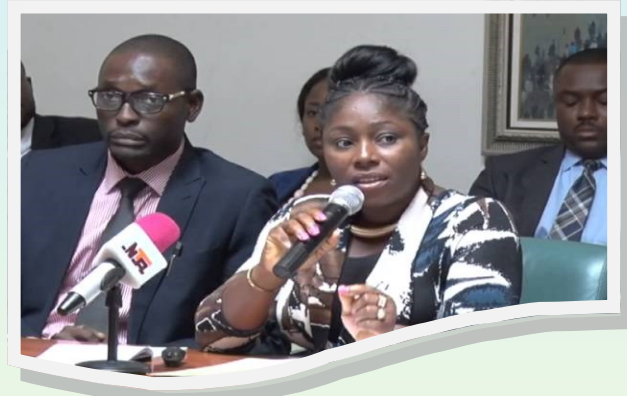
Photorama



Presidential Task Force on Agricultural Commodities and Production and young farmers at the Owowo Model Farm Estate (Jul 2016-Ogun, Nigeria)



IMF, BCEAO Regional Conference to promote financial inclusion in West Africa (Sept. 2016 - Dakar, Senegal)



Round Table on Financial Inclusion hosted by the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (Aug. 2016-Abuja, Nigeria)



5th E-Government summit organized by E-Payments Providers Association of Nigeria (E-EPAN) - (Sept. 2016-Abuja, Nigeria)



Diamond "Banking with Women Event" (Oct. 2016-Lagos, Nigeria)



Financial Inclusion Secretariat's courtesy visit to Pagatech (Oct 2016-Lagos, Nigeria)



PENCOM officials receiving award at World Pension Summit 'Africa Special' (Sept. 2016-Abuja, Nigeria)



NYSC Members at the YEDP loan disbursement ceremony (Sept 2016 - Abuja, Nigeria)



DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

E-PPAN hosts 5th E-Government Summit 2016

The E-Payment Providers Association of Nigeria (E-PPAN) organized its 5th E-Government Summit in Abuja from the 27th–28th September, 2016.

The summit which had the theme ‘Attaining Increased IGR, Efficiency and Accountability through Smart Innovations’ was designed to bring decision makers and thought leaders in the private and public sector on a single platform to discuss, network and set programmable agenda that will yield quantum result for sustainable economic development.

The main objectives of the summit included;

- To demonstrate the effectiveness of smart solutions /ICT and its capacity to increase and generate IGR
- To explore the opportunities for
- To leverage on ICT for enhanced data management and security
- To drive financial inclusion through enhanced



Engr. Oluwatoyin Jokosenumi, FSS 2020 chairing a panel session.

shared infrastructure and inter-operability in the public sector to enable reduction in cost of governance

payment systems.

Mrs. Akin-Fadeyi Temitope, Head Financial Inclusion Secretariat delivered a presentation on ‘*Adopting the Financial Inclusion Roadmap for Improved Economy and Good Governance*’ during a panel session chaired by Engr. Oluwatoyin Jokosenumi, FSS 2020

During the panel session, the Divisional CEO, Interswitch Financial Inclusion, Mr. Mike Ogbalu stated that Interswitch was planning to roll out 150,000 additional financial touch points to promote Financial Inclusion. Dr. Nicholas Allo, MD Visual Earth speaking also during the session made a case for knowledge deepening for service providers on the dispersion of financial access points.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation organizes workshop on Digital Financial Inclusion in Nigeria for the Nigerian Communications Commission

The Financial Services for the Poor (FSP) team of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) on September 27, 2016, hosted a workshop on Digital Financial Inclusion for the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

The workshop which was facilitated by Dr. Abiodun Jagun of BMGF was organized based on a request by the Executive Vice Chairman of the NCC and was aimed at increasing knowledge, and discussion within the Commission of financial inclusion in Nigeria.

The major objectives of the workshop included the following;

- Provide an overview of financial exclusion globally - its definition, why it is an issue of global importance and the consensus on increasing it
- Provide a detailed view of financial exclusion in Nigeria - the various forms of inclusion and exclusion to financial services; characteristics of the financially excluded; barriers to inclusion and initiatives for removing or reducing them
- Provide an understanding of the role of (Tele) communications services pro-

vides in increasing financial inclusion; including a detailed discussion on the role of (Tele) communications regulators

- Include a working session to brainstorm the proposition to license Mobile Network Operators as Shared Agent Network providers
- Include a working session to kick-off design of a pilot to test issues that impact on telecommunications regulation in the delivery of digital financial services in Nigeria.

The workshop featured presentations from the Head, Financial Inclusion Secretariat (Mrs. Temitope Akin-Fadeyi) in which she highlighted the global trends in financial exclusion, listing some of the factors contributing to exclusion across the globe and stating that 25 countries had been identified as strategic to driving global financial inclusion and Nigeria was one of them.

The workshop also featured several sessions including;

- ‘The Case for Digital Financial Services (DFS) and Why DFS Matters for

Financial Inclusion’ facilitated by David Cracknell, Managing Director, Africa at MicroSave and Shiv Valdivelalagan an Engagement Manager at Glenbrook Partners

- Country Case Studies - Ghana and Uganda; Implications for Nigeria facilitated by Elly Ohene-Adu, former Head of Banking Department; Central Bank of Ghana, Twinemanzi Tumubweinee Director of Industry Affairs and Content; Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), and the Head, Financial Inclusion Secretariat (CBN)
- Moderated Brainstorming Session on Accelerating Digital Financial Services in Nigeria—moderated by KPMG with input from Paul Usoro & Co.

The workshop was an opportunity for staff of the NCC to (re) acquaint themselves with financial inclusion, its benefits, challenges to attaining it in Nigeria, and most importantly the role of the NCC in helping to achieve the national target for this important contributor to poverty alleviation and economic growth.



DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation organizes workshop for Nigerian Inter-Bank Settlement Scheme and Central Bank of Nigeria on Geospatial Mapping



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation organized a two-day workshop for staff of the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in Lagos on October 12-13, 2016. The objective of the workshop was to examine how NIBSS' existing database can be used to improve the existing geospatial maps of Nigerian financial access points on www.fspmmaps.com. In particular, NIBSS captures some data on financial access points and on electronic transactions in real-time, implying that NIBSS may be

able to provide some of the data available on www.fspmmaps.com in real-time rather than static format.

The workshop was moderated by consultants from Bankable Frontier Associates and attended by 5 staff of the Central Bank of Nigeria:

Additionally, several staff from NIBSS and two representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation were in attendance.

The 1st (First) day of the workshop featured discussions on how geospatial data can be updated on a regular and automated basis from NIBSS data so that manual reporting processes from financial services providers would be minimized while the 2nd (second) day included presentations from Bankable Frontiers Associates on how the database would al-

low policy-makers and financial services providers to analyze and improve policies and strategies.

At the end of the workshop, the following recommendations were made;

1. That a meeting is convened between BPSD and FIS to ensure a common understanding of the idea of the database before additional stakeholders are consulted.
2. That a meeting is convened with other relevant stakeholders within CBN to discuss the benefits and potential of the discussed database and ask for their feedback.
3. That when the synthesized framework is provided by BFA, a meeting be held between CBN and NIBSS to define a work plan (including responsibilities) on the development of a database that meets the expectations of CBN and NIBSS.

The Lagos Business School (LBS) hosts stakeholder session on digital financial services (DFS) in Nigeria

The Lagos Business School (LBS) organized a closed door session of stakeholders in the digital financial services (DFS) industry was convened on 27 October, 2016. The aim of the session was to present findings from the LBS Sustainable DFS research project and obtain feedback from participants. In attendance were mobile money operators, mobile network operators, technology providers, agents/super agents, data aggregators, etc.

The stakeholder session is a laudable initiative to improve the reach of financial services to the under-banked using digital platforms. With approximately 141 million active mobile phones in Nigeria, Digital Financial Services (DFS) is seemingly the 'glowing bride' amongst the options available to widen the reach to the rural unbanked population.



Some considerations contained in the preliminary findings of the LBS research project include;

- Business Establishment Motivations
- Distribution Capabilities – Agents, Subagents, Branches

- Institutional Capital
- Managerial Capabilities
- The cost of serving the poor

The research results would be launched in December and findings disseminated publicly.



NON-INTEREST FINANCE

Sterling Bank bags Best Non-Interest Banking award



Mr. Adeyemi Razack Adeola
Managing Director, Sterling Bank

During a recently held Global Banking & Finance Awards organized by 'The European' in London, Sterling Bank Plc bagged the award 'Non-Interest Bank of the Year – Africa 2016', for its Non-interest banking window known as Sterling Alternative Finance. Sterling Bank commenced its Non Interest Banking operations in 2013 when the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) granted the Bank the license to operate the window.

In a statement made available by the bank, it noted that the Award was conferred based on its success story in the last three years coupled with its ability to use non interest banking contracts to structure transactions in

the most unique manner. While appreciating the honor bestowed on the Bank by 'The European', the management of Sterling Bank offered that it currently has about 200 branches offering non interest banking services, with wide coverage across Nigeria.

The statement from the Bank read further: "Since 2013, we have achieved major milestones which include a line of US\$30 million from the Islamic Corporation for Development (ICD) and \$25 million from the International Islamic Finance Trade Corporation (ITFC).

Source: <http://thenationonlineng.net/sterling-bank-bags-best-non-interest-banking-award/>



Central Bank of Nigeria sets 10% limit on banks' investment in Islamic bonds

In a statement issued by the Director of Financial Markets Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), commercial banks investment in Islamic bonds issued by state governments has been set to 10 per cent of the total amount on offer. The statement also highlighted the fact that the apex bank also fixed a maximum tenor of 10 years for the bonds.

Also speaking on Sukuk instruments, the

Director stated that "In view of the need to foster financial system and economic growth and development, as well as complement the efforts of government at various levels, the CBN has approved "Guidelines for Granting Liquid Asset Status to Sukuk Instruments Issued by State Governments", to enhance the diversification of sources of funding for development at the sub-national levels," she said.

She said financial deepening is gradually

gaining ground in the Nigerian financial landscape with the introduction of new financial products, including non-interest financial instruments, to cater for the diverse financial needs of the populace and government at various levels.

The adoption of Sukuk issuance by state governments in Nigeria, as an alternative means of financing public expenditure, will contribute to the deepening of the financial system. In the same light, it is expected that other levels of government as well as interested supra-national financial organizations may get involved in Sukuk structuring at some time in the future.

Source: <http://thenationonlineng.net/cbn-sets-10-limit-banks-investment-islamic-bonds/>

Securities and Exchange Commission to commence issuance of sovereign sukuk bond in 2017

Following from the release of guidelines for granting liquid asset status to sukuk instruments issued by state governments by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced in August that sovereign Sukuk bond initially scheduled for third quarter of 2016 would now be issued in the first quarter of 2017.

Speaking at the Commissions second quar-

ter Capital Market Committee briefing in August, 2016, the Managing Director of the Commission Mr. Mounir Gwarzo made this known to all present.

He stated that initially, the Debt Management Office was thinking about issuing a sovereign Sukuk bond this year, and that they were working toward the savings bonds and other infrastructural instrument

and with a timeline.

Speaking at the meeting, he stated "From our discussion with them, it is very unlikely that a sovereign Sukuk will be issued this year.

"They are working toward it, but if they are not able to issue it this year, they are certainly looking at the first quarter of 2017,"

Source: <http://thenewsnigeria.com.ng/2016/08/nigeria-shifts-issue-of-sukuk-bond-to-2017/>



CREDIT ENHANCEMENT SCHEMES TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Bank of Industry disburses N328m loan to Kaduna entrepreneurs to boost businesses, Partners with NIRSAL to increase agricultural loan portfolio



*Mr. Waheed Olagunju
Ag. MD, Bank of Industry*

As part of the Kaduna State Governments efforts to empower aspiring entrepreneurs to be able to access various intervention funds available to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the State Government in conjunction with the Kaduna Business School and the Bank of Industry (BOI) has designed a Kaduna Start up Entrepreneurship Programme known as KADSTED.

During the Graduation ceremony for the

second batch of trained entrepreneurs of the KADSTED programme ceremony held recently the Managing Director of the Bank of Industry, Mr. Waheed Olagunju announced that the Bank had disbursed N328m loan to beneficiaries of the programme whose business proposals met the risk acceptance criteria.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Olagunju mentioned that although 500 students enlisted for the programme, only 375 candidates who met the required cut-off grade graduated. The loan deal will afford successful small business operators in the state the opportunity to leverage on existing N1billion matching fund arrangement between the development finance institution and the Kaduna State Government.

Mr. Olagunju stated that the BOI was also partnering with Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) to increase agri-

cultural loan portfolio in the country highlighting that all stakeholder agencies will provide support to value chain players in the sector including input producers, farmers, agro dealers, agro processors, industrial manufacturers as well as trade and export merchants.

At the signing of Memorandum of Understanding, (MoU), between two agencies, Mr. Olagunju, reiterated that loans would be made accessible to eligible agricultural producers at low prices as the risk-sharing collaboration seeks to lower interest rates. Mr. Aliyu Abdulhameed, Managing Director of the NIRSAL, commended the Bank of Industry for its visionary stance in ensuring that the agricultural sector lived up to its expectation in boosting the Nigerian economy. He went on to appreciate Mr. Olagunju for his acceptance, cooperation and commitment to the success of the initiative.

Source: <http://www.dailystar.com.ng/news/business/boi-disburses-n328m-loan-to-kaduna-entrepreneurs-to-boost-biz/166887.html#bqoEupb1c8kZiTZ.99>

CBN, Heritage Bank, NYSC Disburse N774 Million to 310 YEDP Beneficiaries

The tripartite stakeholders involved in the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme (YEDP) (Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Heritage Bank Plc, and The National Youth Service Corps) have disbursed a sum of N774million to 310 beneficiaries under the scheme.

The CBN Governor, Mr. Godwin Emefiele, who spoke at the flag off ceremony for the disbursement commended Heritage Bank for its painstaking effort to buy into the vision of job creation and piloting the programme to a successful stage. The governor, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Corporate Services, Alhaji Suleiman Barau, said the CBN in partnership with Heritage Bank and NYSC instituted the programme to reduce the alarming rate of unemployment affecting over 16 million unemployed youths in Nigeria, adding

that the access to credit via this platform would be a powerful instrument to grow businesses and the economy.

During the ceremony, the CBN Governor stated that the YEDP was part of the plan by the CBN and the Federal Government to create over one million direct jobs by 2020. He therefore urged all the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the fund while noting that the programme would have a multiplier effect on job creation and economy. He added that the YEDP has the potential of becoming the stimulus for job and wealth creation, growth and economic development through improved access to finance for young entrepreneurs.

Also Speaking at the flag off, Mr. Ifie Sekibo Managing Director, Heritage Bank Plc, stated that the beneficiaries would get the

fund as soon as certain concerns raised by the beneficiaries regarding the conditions for the loans are addressed.

According to Sekibo, who was represented by Group Executive Director, Lagos /South-West Corporate Banking of Heritage Bank, Mrs. Mary Akpobome, a proper process of disbursement would be done to the benefit and happiness of all parties.

He said, "They will get the money as soon as all those issues they raised are addressed. The money is available. They have been disbursed. CBN has disbursed to the banks. It is now about sorting out whatever the challenges are, and then the funds are now made available."

Source: <http://www.businessdayng.com/cbn-heritage-bank-nysc-disburse-n774-million-to-310-yiedp-beneficiaries/>



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Nigeria celebrates the 2016 world savings day

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) joined the rest of the world to mark World Savings Day, on Monday, October 31, 2016. The event, which was also marked in other parts of the country, featured a mentoring programme for primary and secondary students on financial literacy.

Speaking at the financial education programme in Dange, Sokoto State, the Director, Consumer Protection Department of CBN, Hajiya Umma Dutse, said that the primary objective was to increase awareness on financial literacy among various segments of the general public and to sensitize them on the importance of savings, earning a livelihood, inculcate savings habit, employment and entrepreneurship for personal and national development.

While, the Head, Consumer Educa-



Cross-section of students mentored during 2016 World Savings Day

tion, Hajiya Khadijah Kasim spoke to students in Suleija, Niger State, noting that, the theme of this year's World Savings Day, 'Don't save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving', would assist in creating awareness on the need to save. She said that, the mentoring programme would enable school children make sound financial decisions. She advised teachers and students to save at least 10% of whatever they earn and invest for the future.

In Uyo, Mr. Ibrahim Hassan of the Consumer protection Department told the students that the Bank's efforts at inculcating financial literacy in youths at their tender age had been realized with the introduction of financial education in the curriculum of both primary and secondary schools. She added that, the Bank had been able to influence the Federal Ministry of Education to include financial education in the academic programme of primary and secondary schools.

He said the introduction will fast track the Bank's target to expand financial literacy to all segments of national life.

In attendance at the events were representatives of the GIZ, staff of the Bank and Primary and Secondary School students with their principals and teachers.

Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation to extend Deposit Insurance Course to Higher Institutions



Alh. Umaru Ibrahim

Managing Director, NDIC

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has announced that it intends to extend its Deposit Insurance Scheme (DIS) course to additional higher institutions of learning.

Speaking to the News Agency of Nigeria, the NDIC Director of

Administration, Mrs. Christiana Efabor stated that the corporation is working closely with the Nigeria University Commission (NUC) to foster better understanding of the corporation's mandate to students and the general public.

She stated that the introduction of the course was aimed at enhancing undergraduates' knowledge of deposit insurance practices and the importance of NDIC's role in the banking system also highlighting that the Corporation had so far been able to graduate a set at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, while the program is on at the University of Benin, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and the University of Lagos.

Also speaking to NAN, Mrs Efabor stated that other universities undergoing the programme are Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; Bayero University, Kano; and the University of Ibadan. NAN has since reported that three 300 levels students of the Ahmadu Bello University who emerged top of the class in the Fundamentals of Deposit Insurance course were given cash

awards by NDIC. N200,000, N150,000, and N100,000 were awarded to the first, second, and third best students respectively.

In response to some comments on the 'wonder bank phenomenon' in Nigeria, NDIC said the institutions were not regulated by the corporation because they had not been licensed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

They went on to state 'We do not regulate them because they are not licensed; we only regulate financial institutions that are licensed by CBN highlighting that the public needs to be aware of these wonder banks and that is why there are toll-free lines, where customers can call in and make enquiry about these wonder banks.



FINANCIAL INCLUSION INTERVENTIONS FOR VULNERABLE SEGMENTS

Stakeholders Strategize towards Financial Inclusion Peer Educator programme for National Youth Corp Members

The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports convened stakeholders on the 3rd November, 2016 to strategize and develop training content for a peer educator programme for National Youth Corp members in Nigeria.

The peer educator programme, an initiative agreed upon at the National Financial Inclusion Technical Committee is aimed at providing training to serving youth corps members across the federation who would in turn educate their peers and the communities in which they



Committee members at the strategy meeting to prepare for the Financial Inclusion Peer Educator program for NYSC

reside on the benefits of financial Inclusion.

The meeting which held at the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Office in Abuja, had in

attendance representatives of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Youth Service Corps, National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), National Pension Commission

(PENCOM), the Association of Non-Bank Micro-finance Institutions in Nigeria (ANMFIN), Consumer Protection Department and the Financial Inclusion Secretariat of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The Peer educator programmes would go a long way in extending information on financial inclusion to the grassroots ultimately leading to improved financial inclusion across Nigeria.

The pilot phase of the project is expected to kick off in the 1st Batch of the NYSC camp which is tentatively scheduled for March 2017.

Financial Inclusion Secretariat hosts workshop/capacity building programme for People with Disabilities



Participants at the capacity building programme for PWDs

As part of the efforts to scale up access to finance for Persons with Disabilities, the Financial Inclusion Secretariat organized a capacity building workshop for persons with disabilities.

The workshop was organized to prepare for the launching of pilot disbursements to 150 eligible Entrepreneurs in each state of the Federation through champion Financial institutions. Some of the key objectives included;

- Provide proper briefing on roles of the Development Finance Officers (DFOs) at all CBN Branches nationwide and the Joint Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD).
- Train JONAPWD officials on the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund (MSMEDF) guidelines, beneficiary eligibility and application modalities.
- Achieve distribution of appropriate resource material for a nationwide rollout.

During the workshop, some of the following key issues were raised ;

1. The need to address the issue of knowledge gap of business

environment of People with Disabilities by the banks

2. The need to address the problem of poor risk assessment due to lack of proper information, un-structured business models, Insufficient data on financials for decisions making by lenders, lack of acceptable collaterals and lack of entrepreneurial skills

3. The need to put a structure on ground/business clusters of different businesses to enable easy tracking and loan recovery.



International Financial Inclusion News

Alliance for Financial Inclusion hosts 2016 Global Policy Forum in Nadi, Fiji



Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Voreqe Bainimarama Arrives Forum Venue with the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji, Mr. Barry Whiteside (Right) and the Executive Director of AFI, Dr. Alfred Hannig (Left)



Ms. Khadijah Kasim, Consumer Protection Department, CBN (left) and Mrs. Zainab Katune, Banking & Payment Systems Department, CBN (Right) with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji.

The Alliance for Financial Inclusion 2016 Global Policy Forum (GPF) of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) held in Nadi, Fiji on 6th to 9th September, 2016 under the theme "Building the Pillars of Sustainable Inclusion."

The GPF which was co-hosted by the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) and was attended by Governors of Central Banks across the globe, other financial services regulators, development partners, government officials and the private sector.

Picking up the inspiring discussions that began at the 2015 GPF, gender and women's financial inclusion took center stage at the event, culminating in the adoption of the Denarau Action Plan: The AFI Network Commitment to Gender and Women's Financial Inclusion.

This 10-point Action Plan will be overseen by the newly formed AFI Gender and Women's Financial Inclusion Committee (GWFiC), which will work with key partners and gender focal points from each of the AFI Working Groups. "AFI recognizes the importance of closing the persistent gender gap in access to financial services, and reducing the more than 1 billion women worldwide lacking access to even a basic transaction account," said Dr. Tukiya Kankasa-

Mabula, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Zambia and Chair of the GWFiC.

The AFI Maya Declaration was also a centerpiece of this year's GPF activities with members of the Alliance making significant commitments to the Maya Declaration. New and revised commitments from 16 AFI institutions were presented, including from: Reserve Bank of Fiji, Central Bank of Egypt, Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Banco Central do Brasil, Bank Negara Malaysia, Banco de Moçambique, Central Bank of the Russian Federation, Bank of Tanzania, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances de Côte d'Ivoire, Central Bank of Jordan, Central Bank of Suriname, Ministry of Finance Swaziland, Central Bank of Solomon Islands, Bank of Zambia and Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Meeting under the theme, "**Building the Pillars of Sustainable Inclusion**", discussions revolved around eight key pillars of sustainable financial inclusion: gender, green financial inclusion, SME finance, de-risking and re-risking, financial inclusion data, technology and innovation, consumer empowerment, and partnerships.

Over the two days, AFI members tackled a comprehensive agenda, focusing on the central role of financial inclusion as a global issue and an enabler of the development objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda, which include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Addis Ababa

Action Agenda. "The network renewed its effort to promote financial inclusion in the year ahead to sustain progress in reaching the goal of access to, and usage of, quality financial services for all individuals, households and small businesses," said Benno Ndulu, Governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) and Chair of the AFI Board.

Reflecting on the theme of the GPF, Executive Director Alfred Hannig said, "*The financial inclusion pillars that we have put in place will allow AFI, as an independent organization, to build on our global leadership position and continue to demonstrate the power and impact of smart policies. The discussions and ideas that have taken place over these days will help guide the work of our Alliance over the next 12 months, and will make a long-lasting contribution to creating a fully inclusive world.*"

AFI's eighth Global Policy Forum, the first to be held since AFI became a fully independent international organization, was also the largest ever held, attended by over 500 senior financial inclusion policymakers and regulators and leaders from international organizations and the private sector.

Nigeria is a signatory to AFI's 2011 Maya Declaration for 80% adult financial inclusion by 2020.



International Financial Inclusion News

Bridging The Financial Inclusion Gap, Via Incubator

In an effort to bridge what is increasingly being known as the “inclusion gap” for minorities, Visa is finding promise in supporting products for financial inclusion in the credit union and community bank portfolio. The goal? To hurdle the financial gap that exists for these underserved populations in North America.

In an interview conducted by Karen Webster with Rob Meloche, Senior Director of Global Financial Inclusion at Visa, the conversation focused on the payment company’s research, conducted in partnership with Filene Research Institute, that revealed the spending power that exists within the minority community in the U.S. and the ways credit unions are tapping into that potential. Thus, the development of a product incubator with Filene that is geared toward testing and scaling financial products. “We now have products being tested in more than 30 community banks and credit unions around the country,” Meloche said.

Filene’s research showed that return on assets for minority credit unions and non-minority credit unions showed similar results to peers, Meloche said, and in developing the incubator, they put together an advisory panel of experts from academia, the financial industry and the nonprofit sector.



For more information visit: <http://www.pymnts.com/visa/2016/visa-financial-inclusion-gap-incubator/>



Financial inclusion significantly increased via touch points, says BNM Governor

Agent banking through high volume touch points has significantly increased financial inclusion in the country, said Bank Negara Malaysia governor Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim.

Through touch points such as sundry shops, petrol stations and post offices have enabled the rural population to perform basic banking transactions on behalf of financial institutions.

Today, 99 per cent of the population have access to financial services while 91 per cent have accounts with the formal sector.

“The technology involved was hardly state-of-the art, relying on point of sale (POS) terminals with real time connectivity, to back-end system of banks to biometric identification to meet the Know-Your-Customer requirements.

“Yet, it has enabled Malaysians particularly those in rural areas to conveniently access financial services, while saving up to 80 per cent of costs in building brick-and-mortar bank branches,” he said at the launch of BNM-WBF Global Symposium on inclusive financial inclusion.

For more information visit: <http://www.nst.com.my/news/2016/09/174831/financial-inclusion-significantly-increased-touch-points-says-bnm-governor>

Central Bank of Liberia Governor hints at strategy to include Liberia’s poor

“The majority of our people don’t have access to financial services. If we can change that, it will have a positive macro effect on the economy,” Central bank Governor Milton Weeks has said. According to him, Liberians are suffering and poor because they do not have access to financial services to create opportunities for themselves.

Suggesting that financial inclusivity could have a positive effect on inflation, which stands 8.4 and 8.5 per cent in the Liberian economy, he believes “financial inclusivity can address inflation.”

In an interview with the Daily Observer last Thursday in Monrovia, Governor Weeks said “Many Liberians are not included in the financial structure of the country, and the Central Bank is doing all it can to manage the situation.”

He defined inclusion as “bringing the majority of our poor people who have no access to financial services to the financial services sector.”

This can be done using mobile technology and will result in a better quality of life and result in an overall improvement of our economy.

For more information visit: <http://www.liberianobserver.com/news/%E2%80%98financial-inclusion-can-address-inflation%E2%80%99>



IMF Co-Hosts Regional Conference to Promote Access to Financial Services in West Africa

The Bank of West African States (BCEAO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) co-hosted a Financial Inclusion Conference on the 20th September, 2016 to examine the prospects and policy options for promoting financial inclusion in Dakar, West Africa.

The aim of the conference was to discuss the impact of financial inclusion on growth and poverty reduction. It brought together policy makers; international experts; bankers and central bankers; and representatives from the civil society and the private sector. The conference specifically explored avenues to improve financial inclusion in West Africa.

For more information visit: <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2016/09/15/PR16410-West-Africa-IMF-Co-Hosts-Regional-Conference-to-Promote-Access-to-Financial-Services>





International Financial Inclusion News

AfDB facilitates digital financial inclusion of small-scale farmers in Togo

After its success in Liberia, the African Development Bank is supporting another digital payment project in line with its agriculture transformation agenda. "AGRIPME" (Agri Porte Monnaie Electronique) is a joint project of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Digital Economy in Togo aiming to provide subsidies to farmers through electronic wallets provided by mobile network operators MOOV and TOGOCEL.

To date, 76,522 out of the 150,000 small-scale farmers have been identified and registered, allowing them to benefit from a US \$1.3 million subsidy to buy inputs. The Government is essentially aiming to establish a secure database of small-holder farmers, the digitalization of input acquisition and the selection of input suppliers for fertilizers distribution. This innovative input distribution mechanism is based on the fact that Togo is among of the lowest users of fertilizers in the world. Prior to the ongoing reform of the agricultural sector, approximately 6 kilograms of fertilizers per acre were used in Togo, against the recommended 50 kg for good agricultural performance. Key components of the project were related to farmers' registration, wallet openings, capacity building and sensitization, technical assistance and setting up an agricultural information system.



The Government is targeting 3 million farmers, which represents 70% of its total population. It is important to note the involvement and alignment of mobile network operators in Togo, in supporting the cost of 107,000 SIM cards, prefunding a communication campaign and establishing of call centres for customer support as part of their corporate social responsibility. In a second phase of the project and to speed up results, the Government of Togo will look to leverage on the latest innovative technologies such as geospatial mapping and biometric identification.

The long-term impact of this digital payment innovation resides in an opportunity for more than half the population to be recognized in the financial system and aspire to additional financial services and improved well-being.

For more information visit: <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-facilitates-digital-financial-inclusion-of-small-scale-farmers-in-togo-16068/>



United States Teens win Global Entrepreneurship contest

"During back-to-school season, students usually trade stories about how they spent their summer. For a group of students in California, this year will be a chance to boast about their entrepreneurship skills.

Although some had never even been on an airplane, students from Santa Monica High School traveled to Shanghai this summer, where they won first place in the SAGE World Cup, an international entrepreneurship competition.

The team from Santa Monica, Calif., which earned the opportunity to represent the United States during a national SAGE competition in May, beat out teams from countries such as Ghana, Kazakhstan, and Russia. The 2005 championship team from Ukraine was awarded second place this year.

SAGE, or Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship, operates programs in six U.S. states and nine countries that advance entrepreneurship education by connecting student organizations to mentors from local universities and businesses.

In competition, each high-school team gave a 15-minute presentation about their ongoing student-run businesses and associated outreach projects. They then answered questions from a panel of judges. The students were judged on entrepreneurship, community outreach, civic engagement, environmental responsibility, and the use of college mentors and an advisory board.

For more information visit: <http://www.inc.com/news/articles/200609/shanghai.html>

Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) launches Publication on 'Adaptive Flexibility Approaches to Financial Inclusion in a Digital Age'

At the 5th CPTM Central Bank Governors Think Tanking, which took place in London in June 2016 the CPTM Chairman, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Omar A. Rahman, and the CPTM Board of Directors presented a CPTM Brief, including recommendations and proposals, on adaptive flexibility approaches to Financial Inclusion in the digital age.

The Brief begins by outlining why it matters that a strategy for adaptive flexibility approaches to Financial Inclusion in the current digital age should emerge and be monitored for specific national contexts. The Brief then continues by sharing country experiences of financial inclusion and interoperability, followed by elucidating the relevance of statistics, data and standards to financial inclusion. With special insights from CPTM Smart Partner Mike Brook banks, this year's Brief also includes a special focus on block chain technology as a new disruptive technology, and its effect on the financial services industry.



For more information visit: <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/09/07/bitcoin-thrives-countries-focusing-financial-inclusion-efforts/>



Nigerian Financial Inclusion News

Development Bank of Nigeria gets \$1.3b for SMEs financing

The Federal Government has set aside about \$1.3 billion to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country. The fund will be managed by the Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN), the Minister of Finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun, has said.

Mrs. Adeosun, who spoke during a briefing with Nigerian reporters attending the International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank Group meetings in Washington DC, yesterday, said SMEs are part of the engine that will spur the growth of the economy. She added that lending at low rates to SMEs will now be facilitated through the DBN.



For more information visit: <http://thenationonlineng.net/development-bank-nigeria-gets-1-3b-smes-financing/>



Cheques can now be paid into savings accounts

The Central Bank of Nigeria in July, 2016 released four new guidelines for the banking industry, top of which was an approval for bank customers to make cheque deposits into their savings accounts. Prior to this development, bank customers could only make cheque deposits into their current accounts.

The new guidelines were contained in a circular posted on the CBN website and signed by the Director, Banking and Payment System, Mr. Dipo Fatokun. The circular, which was directed to banks and other financial institutions, was dated July 28, 2016

Aside from this approval, the CBN also ordered banks and other financial institutions to remove fixed interest rate on credit cards. The central bank directed the banks to henceforth begin to embed customers' Bank Verification Numbers on their payment cards. It also ordered the banks to discontinue actual address verification as a condition for account opening for customers with the BVN.

For more information visit: <http://punchng.com/cheques-can-now-paid-savings-accounts-cbn/>

Nigerian Inter-Bank Settlement Scheme (NIBSS) unveils micro cash (mCash)

A new initiative to deepen financial inclusion and reposition the country's cash-less economy has been unveiled by banks and telecommunications sectors operators in the country.

The new initiative tagged 'microCash (mCASH)' was unveiled in Lagos yesterday by the lead promoter, Nigeria Inter Bank Settlement System PLC (NIBSS) with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) projecting the new initiative to facilitate 80 per cent financial inclusion drive in the country by 2020.

Speaking at the launch of the initiative, the Managing Director of NIBSS, Ade Shonubi said mCASH was an innovative solution, designed to facilitate low-value retail payment.

For more information visit: <http://guardian.ng/news/nibss-banks-telcos-target-80-financial-inclusion-by-2020/>



NAICOM to approve dedicated companies for takaful, micro insurance.

As part of its effort towards ensuring financial inclusion in the country, the National Insurance Commission says it will soon approve dedicated companies that will sell takaful and micro insurance products.

The Commissioner for Insurance, Mohammed Kari, said this at a workshop organized by the commission for Insurance Correspondents on Saturday in Gombe.

Kari said that the products would ensure that everybody is carried along and actively participates in the financial sector in the country.

He explained that since the release of the regulations of micro insurance and takaful, companies had opted to use the window opportunities for the products.

For more information visit: <http://theeagleonline.com.ng/financial-inclusion-naicom-to-approve-dedicated-companies-for-takaful-micro-insurance/>

First Lady of Anambra State, Mrs. Ebelechukwu Obaiano seeks women empowerment

The wife of the Governor of Anambra State, Mrs. Ebelechukwu Obiano has called for the adoption of a pan-African approach to women empowerment to boost their financial standing. Mrs. Obiano who is the founder of Caring Family Enhancement Initiative (CAFÉ) an NGO, made the call in a paper titled, 'From Exclusion to Inclusion: Country Level Initiatives Towards Financial Inclusion, A Nigerian Perspective,' presented at the 4th Gender Equality for Sustainable Development Conference which held last week in Kenya.



For more information visit: <http://thenationonlineng.net/obianos-wife-seeks-women-empowerment/>



A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. ADEBOYE ABIOYE
Deputy Chairman, Financial Inclusion Special Interventions Working Group (FISIWG)



Mr. Adeboye having a laugh with Dr. Mahmood, Chairperson of FISIWG during a Working Group meeting



Mr. Adeboye delivering a technical paper at the inaugural FISIWG meeting

Mr. Adeboye Abioye, the founder of Theseabilities Foundation, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the pursuit and actualization of rights and recognition of disabled persons in Nigeria was elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Financial Inclusion Special Interventions Working Group (FISIWG) in 2015. He was an amiable leader who diligently served in the working group until his demise in September 2016.

He was extremely passionate about improving access to financial services for disadvantaged segments of the Nigerian population, particularly economically active person's with disabilities. He worked tirelessly with other members of the Financial Inclusion Special Interventions Working Group and was able to facilitate several engagements with government, and other stakeholders towards improving access to the 2% of the Central Bank of Nigeria's Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund (MSMEDF) earmarked for Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Abioye also contributed to several initiatives to increase access to financial services for Women and Youth in Nigeria in a bid to improve the financial inclusion rate in Nigeria to 80% by 2020. He was a very kind and pleasant man, supporting the Financial Inclusion Secretariat immensely in all its endeavors to the vulnerable segment, with a smile on his face. He will be greatly missed by all of us at the Secretariat and by all the members of the Financial Inclusion Special Interventions Working Group.



L-R: Executive Director Theseabilities, Director, Development Finance (CBN), Senior Special Assistant to the President on Disability Matters and Head, Financial Inclusion Secretariat, during a financial inclusion stakeholder workshop on outreach to people with disabilities



Adieu!



The Financial inclusion Secretariat is the coordinating body for the implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy in Nigeria.

The Secretariat is a liaison for all stakeholders in the Financial Inclusion space and is responsible for engaging, coordinating and evaluating initiatives geared towards the achievement of the Strategy targets.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication by the Financial Inclusion Secretariat and features industry news on financial inclusion as well as periodic updates on the progress of the implementation of the Strategy.

For further enquires and submission of articles for publication, please contact:

**Head, Financial Inclusion Secretariat
Central Bank of Nigeria
Plot 33, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Way
Central Business District,
Cadastral Zone, Abuja,
Federal Capital Territory**

Telephone: 0946237625

Email: FIS@cbn.gov.ng

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Akin-Fadeyi, Temitope

Attah, Joseph A. A

Ogudu, George

Abu, Sophia