



Report on Middle East/Africa Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils October 10-13, 2004

Delegates from More Than 75 Countries Gather at the Middle East/Africa Microcredit Summit

More than 650 delegates from more than 75 countries gathered October 10-13, in Amman Jordan for the Middle East/Africa Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils. The meeting was co-organized by the Arab Gulf Program for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), the Jordanian Ministry of Planning, and the Microcredit Summit Campaign. H.M. Queen Rania of Jordan and H.R.H. Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia served as honorary co-chairs.

Madam Advocate Bience P. Gawanas, Social Affairs Commissioner of the African Union spoke at the opening ceremony. Abdoul Anziz Said Attoumane, Director General of The Africa Microfinance Network (AFMIN), and Fouad Abdelmoumni, Chairman of the Sanabel Network spoke at the closing ceremony. There were large delegations present from AFMIN and Sanabel, the microfinance networks from Africa and the Middle East.

Institutional Action Plans were presented in plenary by Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) of Nigeria and Zakoura Foundation of Morocco. Excerpts from a number of the sessions will be featured in upcoming issues of the Microcredit Summit E-News Bulletin and Conference website (www.agfund-microcredit.org).

Delegates were asked to evaluate sessions on a four point scale, four being excellent, three being good, two being average, and one being poor. The average scores were as follows: Plenary Sessions, 3.3; Workshops, 3.2; Council Meetings, 3.1; and Day-Long Courses, 3.4. On the question of whether to extend the Microcredit Summit Campaign to 2015, delegates voted 9 to 1 in favor of extending. At February's Asia/Pacific Microcredit Summit the vote was 14 to 1 in favor.

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The Latin America/Caribbean Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils will be held April 19-22, 2005 in Santiago, Chile, and the Global Microcredit Summit will be held November 2006, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.