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**UPDATE: 10/2006**

**AMFISA INTERNET BULLETIN**

09/10/2006

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**A GENERAL UPDATE**

1. The AMFISA hosted its first capacity building workshop at the Womens Development Banking Training Centre in Acornhoek from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2006. More than 30 practitioners from development microfinance institutions and two South African Microfinance Apex Fund (SAMAF) provincial coordinators attended the successful workshop. The AMFISA would like to thank the following training facilitators and institutions: - Mr Ben Nkuna (Tsoga Microfinance Services); Mr Roland Pearson (Tiscali); Mrs Olivia Henwood (Kuyasa Fund); Mr. Reuben Ngobeni (Small Enterprise Foundation) and the University of Venda.

The AMFISA would like to thank the Womens Development Banking for consistently supporting AMFISA with the provision of the Acornhoek training centre for the association's activities.

Since the workshop, the AMFISA has been overwhelmed with requests from those that participated in the workshop to host more training workshops. These requests will be addressed in due course.

2. The AMFISA was invited to join a Government and Civil Society delegation on the study tour of the Republics of Chile and Tunisia. The main objective of the study tour was to observe and learn how the two countries were able to halve their poverty and meet their millennium development goals before 2015. The delegation was comprised of officials from the Presidency, National Treasury, Independent Development Trust, Social Development, South African Women in Dialogue and AMFISA. The delegation is currently finalizing the report on the study tour and plans to circulate it soon.
3. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2006, a delegation from AMFISA which included Mr. Mangaliso Williams, Mr. Evans Maphenduka and Mr. Ben Nkuna met Mr. Bill Maddocks and his team from the Southern New Hampshire University to discuss possibilities of partnering and the marketing of the Universities short term course in South Africa. The meeting was a resounding success leading to the following agreements below between the AMFISA and the Southern New Hampshire University: -

- a) The AMFISA and the Southern New Hampshire University will before the end of year sign a memorandum of understanding with the focus being the building of a strong partnership. The two partners also agreed to set up a committee comprising AMFISA, Southern New Hampshire University and other local stakeholders to ensure that even after the short term course has taken place other critical activities relevant to the training can continue.
  - b) The Southern New Hampshire University will assist and participate in the AMFISA baseline study with the intention of building capacity in the sector based on the findings of the research.
  - c) The AMFISA and Southern New Hampshire University will together to market the Microenterprise and Development Institute Southern Africa 2007 courses to be held in Johannesburg from March 5 – March 23, 2007.
  - d) The Southern New Hampshire University committed to provide AMFISA with available research material on community economic development and microfinance on a continuous basis.
  - e) The two partners agreed to create links to one another on their websites.
4. The AMFISA led by its Chairperson and Executive Director attended a meeting organized by Mr. John de Wit of the Small Enterprise Foundation with the National Credit Regulator. The meeting discussed issues emanating from the National Credit Act and regulations. The AMFISA and the National Credit Regulator agreed to develop a compliance agreement if it is of necessity after consultations and analysis. The AMFISA stated that it would have to consult its members on a submission that would ultimately form a basis of the compliance agreement.
  5. The AMFISA is currently preparing the terms of reference for the baseline study to be conducted before the end of this year. Mrs. Marie Kirsten will assist the AMFISA to host a meeting of stakeholders to discuss the terms of reference for the baseline study.
  6. The Umsobomvu Youth Fund deliberations on developing a comprehensive policy framework for microfinance are still progressing. The focus now being the correct positioning of the policy framework in government and entrusting participation from government departments like the DTI.

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