

Press release

Casablanca, 19th of January 2010

PlaNNet Finance, the Banque Populaire Group and Sogeti organize on March 11th and 12th 2010, in Marrakech, the Second Global Conference Microfinance and New Technologies.

New technology represents a key driver for the evolution of the microfinance sector: its use could result in doubling the number of microentrepreneurs, beneficiaries of microfinance, to 300 million worldwide.

Moreover, in Morocco the microfinance market already appears promising for providers of technology solutions attracted to the sector.

In this context, PlaNNet Finance is co-organising with the Banque Populaire Group and Sogeti the 2nd international conference “Microfinance and New Technologies”, taking place on March 11th & 12th 2010 at the Royal Mirage Hotel in Marrakech, on the theme “Which models are best placed to increase access to financial services for the unbanked?”

An international ideas exchange and networking event for leading decision makers in new technologies and microfinance fields

The **2nd Microfinance and New Technologies Summit (MFNT)** is a key event for decision-makers in the technology and microfinance fields.

After the inaugural event held in India in 2008, its principal objective is to **reinforce the synergies between the two sectors in order to develop the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the microfinance sphere.**

The theme for the 2nd MFNT Summit, “Which models are best placed to increase access to financial services for the unbanked?” will deal with the following subjects:

- Which management information systems for microfinance?
- What technological solutions are available to improve microfinance institutions' performance?
- Mobile banking and microfinance: what is the most efficient use?

Around 50 international experts will speak at the conference, including representatives and consultants from microfinance institutions, IT and telecommunications companies, banking and money transfer sectors, regulatory authorities, public and private investors and international development agencies.

Sessions will be held over 2 days in order for speakers to share their experiences, present their technology-based solutions and propose ideas to develop the use of ICT in microfinance.

Around 250 decision makers from around the world are expected to attend.

Both national and international exhibitors will be showcasing their products and services.

Some of the speakers

• Global leaders

- Jacques **ATTALI**, President, PlaNet Finance Group, France
- Norman **FRANKEL**, CEO, Mi-Pay, Romania
- Hannes **VAN RENSBURG**, CEO, Fundamo, South Africa

• Technologies & Finance Experts

- Kamal **BOUDHABHATI**, CEO, Craft Silicon, Kenya
- Oscar **MAEDDU**, Credit Management Specialist, IFC, World Bank, United States
- Alfred **MESGUICH**, MIS Global Coordinator, The Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance, Switzerland
- Ernst **HENNCHE**, CEO, Fisa Group, Ecuador
- Elio **VITUCCI**, General Manager, Experian Micro Analytics, France
- ...etc.

To learn more, please visit the event website:
www.mfntsummit2010.com

About

Microfinance in Morocco

Morocco was chosen to host the 2nd international conference "Microfinance and new technology" because of its particularly large and well-developed microfinance sector. Today, the principal players in the sector are at a point where they are actively looking for technological solutions which will allow them to further improve their efficiency and competitiveness.

- With 1.24 million loans outstanding, **the Moroccan microfinance market is a leader in the MENA region.** Some of the microfinance associations in Morocco are among the leading 20 operators globally.
- **The Moroccan microfinance market continues to evolve:** the largest associations are currently considering the idea to transform themselves into formal banking institutions.
- **Moroccan microfinance institutions and banks are searching for innovative products and solutions to improve their competitiveness:** innovation in IT and telecommunications will therefore represent a key source of differentiation going forward.

PlaNet Finance Group

PlaNet Finance is a leading international non-profit organization with the mission to alleviate poverty through the development of microfinance, therefore increasing the unbanked and underbanked's access to financial services. Since its creation in 1998, PlaNet Finance has developed into a group of organisations (PlaNet Finance Group) that provide a diverse set of services. Its eight units are composed of independent and specialised teams which gather almost 1000 professionals.

Based in Paris, PlaNet Finance's international network holds activities in close to 80 countries around the world. For further information: www.planetfinancegroup.org/EN/

PlaNet Finance Morocco

PlaNet Finance Morocco is a Moroccan non-profit association, founded in 2002, whose aim is to support the development of microfinance in countries of the Maghreb.

Based in Casablanca, PlaNet Finance Morocco is part of the international network PlaNet Finance - World. For further information: <http://maroc.planetfinancegroup.org>

Press Accreditation:

Free access to the 2nd MFNT Summit for accredited journalists. (Press accreditation form on page 3)

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Dates d'accréditation / accreditation days **11 mars / march 2010** **12 mars / march 2010**

Envoyer à : / Sent it to:

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- **par fax / by Fax:** + 212 (0) 5 22 36 13 36

- **ou par e-mail à / or by e-mail at:** mdurdux@planetfinance.org

Votre demande sera examinée dans les plus brefs délais / Your request will be examined as soon as possible

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Pour plus d'information, contactez-nous au +212 5 22 77 55 55 / 5 22 36 10 67 / 93

For further information, please contact us to