

Financial Inclusion Initiatives 2016

About the Cover

The cover is a reproduction of the painting entitled “Partnerships Against Poverty” by Mr. Bret Faustino R. Manalo III from Far Eastern University. The painting (mixed media, 24 x 36 inches) was awarded second prize during the Microfinance Art Competition conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in 2013. In Mr. Manalo’s words, the painting depicts:

“In this artwork, I intended to emphasize the intensity of colors, you may notice that the lower part of the artwork is composed of dark colors. It is to show that the laborers at the bottom need to work hard for a brighter tomorrow (the brighter tomorrow is shown at the top, I used light colors and the element of light). For the composition elements, I used machine to represent microfinance councils together with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Machines are invented to help people and make things easier, but still hardwork is needed. In my artwork, the machine served as the source of energy for every worker, but still, drive to succeed is needed.”

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- Financial Inclusion Tactical Plans
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National Strategy for Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion
towards broad-based and
inclusive growth

POLICY,
REGULATION &
SUPERVISION

FINANCIAL
EDUCATION &
CONSUMER
PROTECTION

ADVOCACY
PROGRAMS

DATA & MEASUREMENT

Financial Inclusion Steering Committee

In 2016, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas continued to spearhead the implementation of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI). The Office of the President issued Executive Order (EO) No. 208 on 2 June 2016 to institutionalize the Financial Inclusion Steering Committee (FISC), the governing body that provides strategic direction, guidance and oversight in the NSFI implementation - developed through a consultative process, serves as guidepost for public and private sector stakeholders to systematically accelerate financial inclusion in the Philippines. The issuance of the EO represents another milestone in the country's efforts to establish a financial system that benefits all Filipinos, particularly the unbanked and underserved, and thereby contribute to inclusive growth and development.

The FISC consists of government agencies that are instrumental in crafting and implementing the NSFI. The current FISC consists of fifteen (15) government agencies. Heads of other agencies may be invited as members when necessary.

FISC Functions

- 

Align various financial inclusion related policies and programs
- 

Ensure effective monitoring of the progress of initiatives
- 

Collaborate with public and private sector stakeholders on various agenda that fall under the NSFI focus areas

Chair and Secretariat:



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)

Members:



Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)



Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)



Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)



Department of Budget and Management (DBM)



Department of Education (DepEd)



Department of Finance (DOF)



Department of Science and Technology (DOST)



Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)



Insurance Commission (IC)



National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)



Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC)



Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)



Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

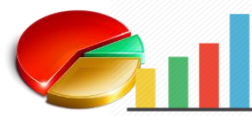
Financial Inclusion Tactical Plans

The Tactical Plan is a complementary document to the NSFI. It is a compendium of institution-specific, medium-term programs and initiatives that support NSFI objectives. It features a brief description of each initiative, target outcomes, measurable indicators, current status and results, timeline, and implementation challenges. Each FISC member is responsible to implement and manage activities enrolled in their Tactical Plan.

The Tactical Plan facilitates:



Identification of complementarities and synergies



Measurement of progress and results



Partnerships and stakeholder support

On 11 April 2016, the FISC exposed the NSFI Tactical Plans to private sector stakeholders in an event entitled **“NSFI Tactical Plans: Working Together with the Private Sector.”** The event was attended by NSFI member agencies; development partners and donors; bank and non-bank financial service providers and their associations; technology companies and other service providers.



107 enrolled programs and initiatives

287 measurement indicators



Partnerships with stakeholders

The NSFI generated significant attention from financial inclusion stakeholders. Private sector partners from the academe, international organizations, development partners, telecommunications companies, and fintech companies supported the following events that were conducted in 2016 under the NSFI umbrella:



BPI Foundation

Financial Inclusion Summit

19 April 2016



Innovations for Poverty Action

Financial Inclusion Workshop

5 July 2016

Donors have committed resources to support the NSFI implementation. The World Bank supports the development of a measurement and evaluation system (M&E) to facilitate monitoring and reporting of NSFI outcomes. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) also works with BSP and selected FISC members to support NSFI related projects.



DepEd in partnership with PLDT and Voyager Innovations

PISO (Personal Insurance and Savings Option) sa Kinabukasan Launch

16 June 2016

“The Philippines has pioneered a **unique approach** to gather relevant data on activities, inputs and indicators **to enable collaborative reporting** by the various implementing agencies [of the NSFI].”

- The World Bank

Policy and Regulation



National Retail Payment System

The BSP's flagship program for digital finance is the National Retail Payment System - a policy and industry cooperation framework. Under the NRPS, BSP is undertaking policy initiatives and brokering changes in the industry to ensure that Filipinos are able to make electronic payments from any transaction account to any account (i.e., bank account, mobile money account) in a convenient, affordable and secure manner.

In 2016, the BSP NRPS Team actively engaged industry players and strategic retail payment system users to align efforts towards the goal of NRPS. Key outcomes secured were:

Commitments of key industry players to establish two priority payment schemes under an automated clearing house

Support of key government agencies to promote digitization of government collections and disbursements

Priority retail payment schemes

1. Batch EFT Credit - Interbank account-to-account fund transfer system, using the Electronic Payment and Clearing System (EPCS) infrastructure of the Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC)
2. InstaPHay - New EFT service where banks and non-bank E-Money Issuers can participate, allowing consumers to electronically pay anyone with a bank account or e-money account

Digitization of government transactions

Government is a key payer/merchant, able to stimulate a large shift to e-payments, thus promoting efficiency, cost-effectiveness and transparency. Key agencies are keen to harmonize policies, rules and procedures. For example, BIR intends to pilot test tax collection from large taxpayers using the EPCS. DOF will explore linking iGovPhil (a system connecting all agencies for collection of fees, charges and other dues) with payment system providers and financial institutions. The NRPS can be a driver for increased interoperability.



General Policy Work

In 2016, the BSP further enhanced the financial inclusion regulatory environment through polices that promote financial access to targeted sectors.

BSP Circular 901 (dated 29 January 2016)

Amends Sec. X151 of the Manual of Regulation for Banks (MORB) to capture the entire procedure in opening micro-deposits in micro-banking offices (MBOs), including the approval and actual opening of accounts. It enables the acceptance of initial deposits, subject to appropriate internal controls, in MBOs.

BSP Circular 908 (dated 14 March 2016) Agricultural Value Chain Financing (AVCF) Framework

Provides banks with opportunities to finance the agriculture and fisheries sector. The AVCF encourages the linking of various actors or players in an agricultural value chain, wherein the credit risk of participating farmers or fishermen can be reduced. This facilitates increased access to credit by value chain participants. The AVCF unlocks the potential for financing at all levels, from production to marketing.

Circular 929 (dated 28 October 2016)

Allows the conversion of microfinance-oriented thrift or rural banks (or branches) to regular banks (or branches). This is in line with recent regulatory approach to liberalize bank establishment and branching rules. It is consistent with the market-based approach to microfinance where banks find their competitive niche in order to adapt to the changing business environment.

Link to the regulations:

<http://www.bsp.gov.ph/regulations/regulations.asp>

Policy Research

The BSP conducted several studies, in support of policymaking.

The **I-SIP** research method was applied on selected financial inclusion-related policies by assessing linkages among I-SIP objectives (Financial **I**nclusion, Financial **S**tability, Financial **I**ntegrity and Consumer **P**rotection), to determine whether positive linkages were optimized, and negative linkages or tradeoffs were managed. Policies studied include the National Strategy for Microfinance, Agri-Agra Mandatory Credit Rules, Regulations on MBOs and e-money, and proposed amendments to pawnshop rules. The research was conducted with the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor. The Philippines is the 4th country where I-SIP is employed. Research results will be published in 2017.

Policy research on **fintech innovations** - virtual currencies, crowd-funding, big data analytics and digital customer identification - were initiated and deepened in 2016. These innovations promise to address factors that perpetuate financial exclusion, but must be approached with caution considering potential risks to consumers, providers and the financial system at large.

Data and Measurement



Financial Inclusion Reports

In 2016, the BSP continued to publish regular reports on financial inclusion to sustain past efforts in support of evidence-based policy making.

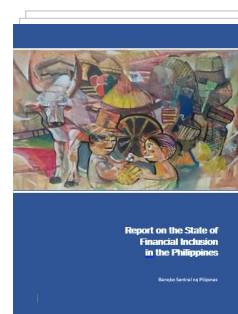


Financial Inclusion in the Philippines

A semestral publication that aims to increase public awareness and appreciation of the BSP's initiatives in financial inclusion, themes and topics related to financial inclusion, and new developments and emerging issues in both domestic and global contexts. In 2016, the publications focused on payments and remittances and the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion.

Report on the State of Financial Inclusion in the Philippines

An annual report that provides an update on the various financial inclusion initiatives of the BSP and the general state of financial inclusion in the Philippines using data from supervisory reports. The maiden report was issued in 2011. It has been annually updated and upgraded to include a growing number of financial inclusion indicators. This report is complemented by results of the demand side survey (National Baseline Survey on Financial Inclusion, NBSFI) rolled out in 2015. The NBSFI will be conducted again in 2017.



Link to the financial inclusion reports:

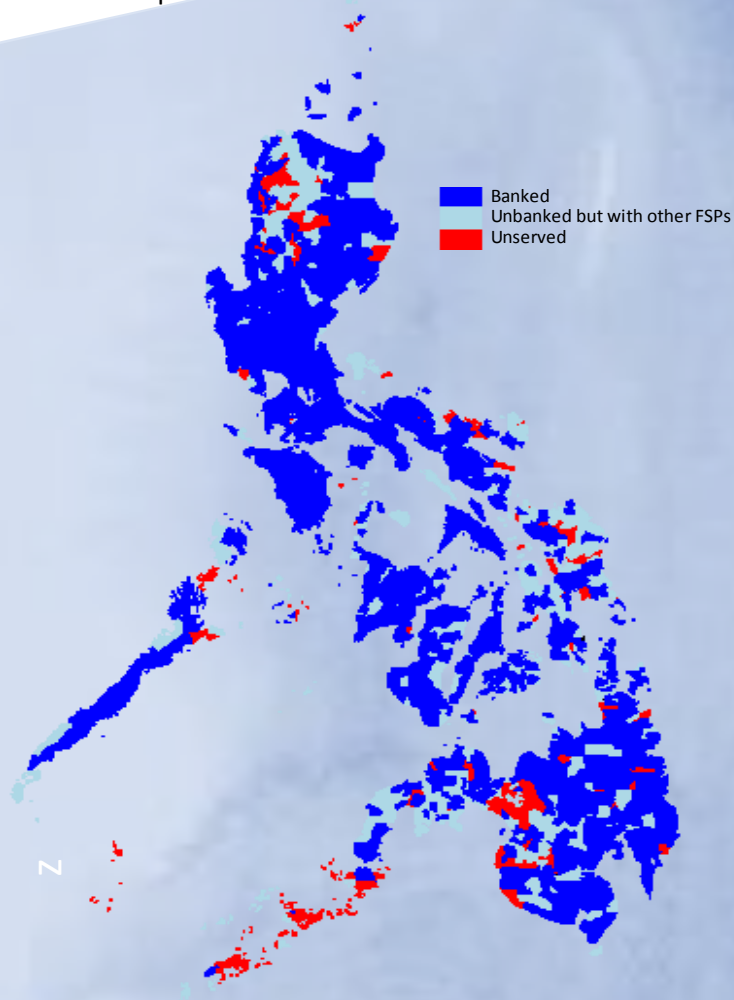
http://www.bsp.gov.ph/publications/regular_microfinance.asp

63.8%

of cities/municipalities
have banking presence

88.2%

of cities/municipalities
have at least one financial
service access points



Searchable Directory of Financial Service Access Points

The Directory of Financial Service Access Points is a search facility on the BSP website that will allow users to identify banks and other financial institutions in their respective areas.

The online portal was developed in response to the growing number of requests from the public about microfinance institutions and their locations.

The searchable directory allows the public to find accessible financial institutions as potential sources of products and services. The public may contact financial institutions directly to make inquiries, and possibly facilitate the start of beneficial banking relationships.

Link to the directory:

<http://www.bsp.gov.ph/banking/directories.asp>



10,710

Banking offices



17,314

Automated teller machines

540 Operating MBOs in:

338 Local government units (LGUs)

66 LGUs of which are served by MBOs alone



50.9 M Deposit accounts



40.4 M

Depositors



PhP 9.2 T

Total amount of deposits

Data as of end-year 2015

Financial Education and Consumer Protection



Economic and Financial Learning Program

The BSP continued to implement various component programs of the Economic and Financial Learning Program (EFLP) which target different audiences. The EFLP is in line with the BSP's thrust to develop a citizenry that is well-informed in economics and finance – making them better partners in maintaining the effectiveness of monetary policy and enabling a stronger, safer, and more inclusive banking and payment system. For 2016, the following programs were conducted, with the Economic and Financial Learning Center and Financial Consumer Protection Department as lead coordinators:

1. "Be Up to Speed with BSP" Public Information Campaign on the Role of the BSP in the Economy
2. Financial Learning Campaign for Overseas Filipinos and their Beneficiaries;
3. Users' Forum on BSP Produced Statistics;
4. Conference on Gearing Up for External Competitiveness;
5. Financial Education Expo (Fin-Ed Expo);
6. Project BRO (BSP Reaches Out); and
7. Financial Empowerment Seminars.



42 Learning sessions conducted in 2016

55,000 Participants reached nationwide

5 Areas reached in 2016:

Caloocan City
 Bayombong, Nueva Ecija
 Catbalogan City, Samar
 Kalibo, Aklan
 Malolos City, Bulacan

Financial Learning Module for the Unbanked

The BSP continues to support partners like the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in developing a simplified financial learning module tailored to the unique profile of unbanked segments like the participants of the Pantawid Family Pilipino Program (Pantawid) and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). The module will be integrated in the Family Development Session (FDS) modules being delivered to all Pantawid and SLP participants.

This is significant considering the number of Pantawid and SLP beneficiaries and their households who will benefit from learning sessions using these modules.

1,627 Cities and municipalities covered by 4Ps

4.35 M Active household beneficiaries

Financial Empowerment Seminars

The BSP continued to hold the Financial Empowerment Seminars (FES) which cover topics on credit cards, savings consciousness, consumer protection, fraud and scams and investment products.

In 2016, a total of twenty one (21) FES were conducted in various areas reaching a total of 2,951 which is 140% above target.

430 BSP participants

2,521 External participants

Financial Education Expo

Five (5) Financial Education (Fin-Ed) Expos were conducted this year. This program aims to instill awareness about the availability and accessibility of financial education programs to all Filipinos, increase personal financial consciousness on the values and benefits of being financially empowered, and orient the public about available financial tools that can help in the promotion of their financial well-being.



Project BSP Reaches Out



Project BSP Reaches Out (BRO) was conducted back to back with Fin-Ed Expos as one of the EFLP activities. The recipients were students and pupils of selected private and public elementary and high schools.

BSP partnered with Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) to conduct the Project BRO Banking Fiesta Week. Banks also went to "Project BRO" schools and facilitated the opening of kiddie savings deposit accounts of interested students and pupils.

33 Schools visited

42,550 Pupils reached

3 Banking Fiestas

Generated **2,648** kiddie savings deposit account

Produced an aggregate amount of **PhP 603,892.75** deposits



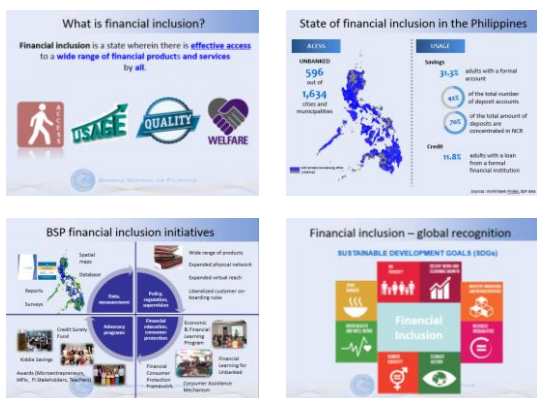
Financial Inclusion Fridays

In 2016, the Inclusive Finance Advocacy Office conducted six (6) sessions of “Financial Inclusion Fridays” (FIF), a learning event aimed to familiarize BSP employees with financial inclusion concepts, the BSP’s role in financial inclusion and ongoing initiatives. The primary message of FIF is that each BSP employee has a role to play in the pursuit of financial inclusion.

The 2016 sessions were attended by a total of 111 BSP personnel. Evaluation results indicate participants’ appreciation to learn new things about the topic. One FIF session is equivalent to 3.5 hours of training credits.



Six (6) FIFs conducted from August to November 2016



Fin-Ed Teaching Guides... A History

In 2007, the BSP pursued a financial education program in partnership with the Department of Education, to teach elementary students essential life skills which will benefit them in the future. With this in view, BSP and DepEd compiled, produced and distributed teaching guides, to integrate in the public elementary curriculum lessons, on money, money management, saving, and basic economics related to savings. Since that time, BSP has been pursuing financial education holistically, using an institutional approach, by strengthening institutional partnerships with the banking community, the DepEd, educational institutions and an international non-government organization (NGO).

Financial Education Through Social Media

To promote a cost-efficient way of expanding public awareness on financial education and consumer protection, the Financial Consumer Protection Department (FCPD) leveraged on social media through the BSP Facebook page.



23 Facebook posts
(August – November 2016)

228,153 Likes generated



Posts include primers, videos, advisories, and announcements of forthcoming events.

BSP Celebrations on Financial Education and Consumer Protection

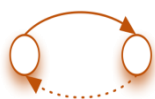
In October, the BSP hosted the 2016 Consumer Welfare Month (CWM) celebration entitled “Consumer Protection: A Shared Responsibility.” The theme emphasizes the importance of working together in ensuring that consumers are accorded the protection needed for their financial well-being.

The BSP also celebrated the 2016 Economic and Financial Literacy Week (EFLW) in the 2nd week of November by conducting select EFLP component programs.



Complaints Management System

Due to the increasing volume of complaints received, FCPD further developed its complaints database. The Complaints Management System (CMS) facilitates:



Simultaneous access for encoding new complaints and updating of corresponding actions undertaken by FCPD and BSP Supervised Financial Institutions (BSFIs).



Data security, eliminating unauthorized access and likelihood of human error.



Data manageability to expeditiously generate reports that are useful inputs to FCPD's policymaking and financial learning initiatives, and will serve as an initial assessment of the consumer protection policies and procedures of BSFIs.

Amendments to Consumer Protection Regulations Issuance of Consumer Protection Advisories

In 2016, the BSP refined regulations covering imposition of fees on dormant accounts and other retail bank products, in line with financial consumer protection principles.

Consumer protection advisories (financial safety reminders and scam alerts) were also issued.

The BSP also began onsite examination of BSFIs to validate their compliance with consumer protection rules.

The Surveillance and Quality Assessment Division (SQuAD) of FCPD, joined, on a masked basis, the examination of nine (9) BSFIs in 2016.

Advocacy Programs



Credit Surety Fund

On 6 February 2016, Republic Act No. 10744, otherwise known as the “**Credit Surety Fund (CSF) Cooperative Act of 2015,**” was passed into law. It provides for the creation and organization of CSF cooperatives to manage and administer credit surety funds and enhance the accessibility of micro, small and medium entrepreneurs, cooperatives and non-government organizations to the credit facility of banks.

The law institutionalized the existing CSFs facilitated by the BSP. Salient features of the law are:

1. Grant of juridical personality to a CSF Cooperative, evidenced by a Certificate of Registration from the CDA;
2. Exemption from the Insurance Code, whereby the issuance of surety agreements by CSF Cooperatives shall not be deemed as doing insurance business;
3. Tax exemption of a CSF Cooperative registered with the CDA;
4. Limited liability of CSF stakeholders to the extent of the assets of the CSF Cooperative; and
5. Maximum loan availment by qualified borrowers under the program shall not exceed ten times its contributions to the fund.

An Inter-Agency Committee consist of the CDA, BSP and the DOF was formed to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The draft IRR has been subjected to public hearings in different parts of the country.

The CSF Program is a credit enhancement scheme developed by the BSP. It aims to increase the credit worthiness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that are experiencing difficulty in obtaining loans from banks due to lack of acceptable collateral, credit knowledge and credit track record.

CSF Updates



45 CSFs established in:
30 provinces
15 cities

As of 31 August 2016,



PhP 3.06 B
cumulative approved
loans



15,302
beneficiaries

Capability Enhancement Program

102 trainings conducted
3,059 participants

PhP 2.70 B
loans released

15,269
beneficiaries

Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards

The Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards (CMA) is an awards program developed through collaboration of the BSP, Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI), Citibank and Citi Foundation. The CMA recognizes inspiring microentrepreneurs and raises awareness on how microfinance makes a positive difference in peoples' lives.

In its 14th awarding ceremony last 16 December 2016, the CMA recognized eight (8) outstanding microentrepreneurs. This year's winners are among the most diverse set, coming from a range of industries. Since its launch in 2002, the CMA has, so far, awarded a total of 108 successful microentrepreneurs.



Success at a young age

Ms. Honie Krizia Navor, 26 years old, was declared the CMA 2016 national winner. She manufactures construction materials such as granite, tiles, stones, and marble slates.

At the first two (2) years of her business, she resorted to informal money lenders for financing. With the help of microfinance, she was able to turn her eight (8)-year old business into a multi-million enterprise.

Today, she was able to tap international markets and has also expanded to related businesses such as hauling and construction. The renovation of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City is currently her biggest project.



Stakeholder Awards

In line with the annual BSP Stakeholder Awards, providers of inclusive financial services and supporters of the BSP financial inclusion agenda were recognized. Awardees for the financial inclusion category are:

Outstanding Financial Inclusion Partner:

Department of Social Welfare and Development

Outstanding Financial Inclusion Champion:

CARD Banking Group

GURO ng PAG-ASA

The "Gantimpala sa Ulirang Pagtuturo ng PAG-iimpok at Araling PanSalapi (GURO ng PAG-ASA)" is an awards program for public elementary school teachers who have been integrating financial learning in their curriculum. The "Bida sa Pag-iimpok at Pangkabuhayan (BSP)" Award, introduced in 2014, is open to teachers, students, classes or schools with a sustained savings or entrepreneurial program that has been running for at least two (2) years. Awarding of winners for both categories is scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.

Banking on Your Future Program

The Banking on Your Future (BOYF): Kiddie Savings Program, organized with the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP), welcomes school children to open accounts in participating banks with an initial deposit of PhP 100, with minimal documentary requirements. Participating banks were given special authorization to solicit and service deposits in participating schools.

With the new K to 12 curriculum, steps have been taken to expand the BOYF into a Kiddie and Teen Account Program. This allows children aged 0 to 19 years old to open accounts ("In Trust For" accounts, in the case of children below 7 years old). This program aims to encourage the habit of saving regularly among the youth. This enables them to continue their savings habit up to high school level, and even up to adulthood.



Bamboo to Bangko

The BSP partnered with Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) College of Accountancy and Finance to implement the campaign entitled "From Bamboo to Bangko." PUP graduating students teach saving and money management lessons through songs, dance and exciting activities to elementary school pupils. These pupils are provided with bamboo coin banks so they can start saving. At end of year, PUP students assist the pupils in opening their own bank accounts with participating BOYF banks.



BSP-BaiPhil Seminar on Personal Finance Management

In support of the BSP's financial education program for school children, the BSP and the Bankers Institute of the Philippines (BaiPhil) developed modules on savings, budgeting and basic money management designed to target the parents and teachers of our public elementary school pupils.

In 2016, improvements were made by including a module on debt management, to better educate our teachers and parents on how to avoid falling into a debt trap.



66 Seminars conducted

7,490 Attendees

Child Youth Finance Global Money Week

The BSP together with the DepEd joined the worldwide celebration of Global Money Week, which aims for youth empowerment through education and promotes easy access to financial products for the youth. This complements the financial education program of the BSP and the DepEd to equip the youth with life skills to save and manage their own finances.



Video conference between students of San Ildefonso Elementary School, Bulacan and a school in Russia on creative savings habits, money management, and culture.

Stakeholder Engagement



BSP – Alliance for Financial Inclusion Joint Learning Program

In 17-21 October 2016, a Joint Learning Program (JLP) on the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) was conducted by the BSP in partnership with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI). The program was attended by twenty-seven (27) delegates from fifteen (15) countries.

The JLP served as a venue to highlight the Philippine experience in the formulation and implementation of the NSFI. This focus is in line with AFI members’ growing interest to implement national strategies, and yearning to learn from peers on practical ways of starting or continuing the process. It promoted the BSP as a key learning hub for NSFI leadership and coordination.

The JLP is a capacity-building initiative that gathers participants from AFI-member institutions to attend an onsite study visit in a selected country considered as an expert in a specific topic or policy area.

The JLP sessions were interactive, allowed in-depth discussions, sharing of experiences and meaningful peer learning among all participants.





The last day of the JLP is structured as a field visit to a micro-banking office (MBO) of a thrift bank, a cash-in/cash-out (CICO) agent of an e-money issuer, and their selected clients in Tagaytay City, in the province of Cavite.

The field visit objective was to showcase how policies and regulations are translated on the ground by private sector providers to benefit the target markets of financial inclusion.

Participants enjoyed interacting with the providers and their clients. They also enjoyed views of the world famous Taal Volcano.

The feedback of the participants were very positive. The program was deemed well-organized in terms of both content and logistics.



Joint Learning Program on the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion

BSP – Bank for International Settlements Research Conference on Financial Inclusion and Central Banks

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the BSP jointly hosted the Research Conference on Financial Inclusion and Central Banks in Mactan, Cebu last 2-4 June 2016. The high-level conference brought together senior level central bankers, leading academics and academic experts to discuss key policy issues on financial inclusion.

The research conference was the first event that the BIS co-hosted with the BSP that is focused on financial inclusion. It was a result of a suggestion made by the BSP during a discussion in the BIS Asian Consultative Council (ACC) in 2014. The conference focused on key research and emerging issues arising from academic investigations on the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability.



“Financial inclusion has gained prominence as a global policy agenda as it complements other policy initiatives on reducing poverty, addressing inequality, and promoting financial stability and integrity.”

BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.
2 June 2016

Key events during the BSP-BIS Research Conference



Knowledge Exchanges and Study Visits

In 2016, the Philippines remained a favorite destination for peer learning on financial inclusion.

The BSP continued to share its initiatives with visiting delegations. A total of sixty (60) delegates from eight (8) countries were hosted by the BSP in 2016. Topics discussed include agricultural and rural finance, microfinance, and the financial inclusion initiatives of the BSP.

1. National Bank of Ethiopia
2. Bank of Russia
3. Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan
4. Nepal Government
5. Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Africa
6. Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Albania
7. Central Bank of Uzbekistan
8. Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Participation in Global Discussions

The BSP actively participates and promotes thought leadership in international forums where emerging financial inclusion issues are confronted. In 2016, the BSP remained at the forefront of significant global discussions.



Alliance for
Financial Inclusion

The BSP is a pioneer member of AFI, committed to deepen financial inclusion in the Philippines as declared in its Maya Declaration. The BSP participates in all AFI Working Groups.



G20 Global Partnership
for Financial Inclusion

The BSP represents one of the few non-G20 countries in the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI). The BSP also participated in the High Level Meeting of Standard Setting Bodies and Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, the United Nations Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance.



Association of South East
Asian Nations

The BSP is a member of the ASEAN Working Committee on Financial Inclusion.



Better than Cash
Alliance

Together with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the BSP supports the Philippine Government's engagement with the Better than Cash Alliance, a multi-sectoral international coalition working to shift global use of physical cash to electronic transactions for payment and other financial economy.



BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

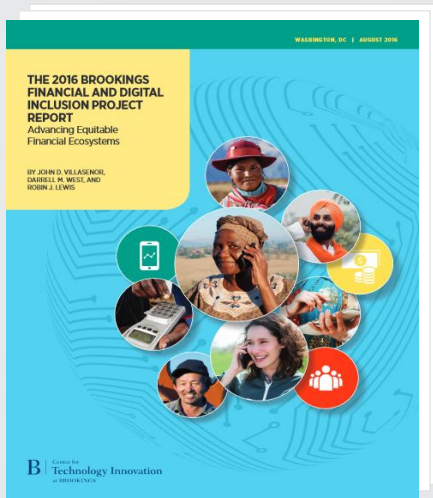
Basel Consultative Group

The BSP served as co-chair of the Basel Consultative Group Workstream on Financial Inclusion, whose work resulted to the issuance of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) "Guidance paper on the application of Core Principles of Effective Banking Supervision to the regulation and supervision of institutions relevant to financial inclusion".

Recognition



Recognition



In the 2016 Brookings Report, the Philippines was cited as the most improved nation in terms of providing wider access to digital and financial services. The Philippines has increased its overall score compared to its score in the 2015 report due to the (1) launch of the NSFI; (2) strong performance in terms of mobile capacity, as measured through smartphone penetration; and (3) highest rate of adoption of mobile money accounts among the South East Asian countries included in the report.



For the past three years (2014-2016), the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has ranked the Philippines as the top country in Asia, and third in the world, with the most conducive environment for financial inclusion.

Financial Inclusion Initiatives 2016

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

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http://www.bsp.gov.ph/about/advocacies_micro.asp

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