

The BoP (Southern African) Learning Lab Programme

Newsletter
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Universiteit van Stellenbosch Bestuurskool
University of Stellenbosch Business School

Centre for
Development Policy & Partnership
(CDPP)

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In an attempt to strengthen the business sector's efforts to meet needs arising in the economic development of those "at the Bottom of the Pyramid", the Centre for Development Policy and Partnership at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) has embarked on the BoP (Southern Africa) Programme. This Newsletter informs about latest activities and action plans in this initiative.

1. Feedback on December 2006 Learning Lab No.1

A lunch-hour workshop on 19 March 2007 at USB gave the opportunity to reflect on the first Learning Lab, held at USB on 10-12 December 2006. The session, attended by 22 persons from a wide range of stakeholder groups also commented on plans ahead, as outlined below.

2. Regular Lunch-hour Sessions

It was agreed that the Centre would arrange monthly lunch-hour workshops at USB (or rotating venues) to inform network partners and others about projects, institutions and plans in the 'development through business' field. Two such presentations are planned for the next meeting (2 May), with scope for brief project presentations as well.

3. Second Learning Lab: 26/27 June 2007 in Gauteng

Plans for a Gauteng-centered Learning Lab, arranged in cooperation with our American partners (Stu Hart and Michael Gordon) and the National Business Initiative (NBI) are taking shape. It will also focus on BoP-projects and partner organisations in the Northern Province as well as contacts in the SADC region.

Corporate leaders and other stakeholders involved in BoP-focused business or development projects who would like to present their project at the Lab (e.g. via a poster) should contact the secretariat asap.

- For background see **Fact Sheet 2007/1** Scope and Framework for the BoP (Southern Africa) Programme
- **Report available via Secretariat** The December 2006 Southern African BoP Learning Lab in Perspective (15pp)
- **Next Lunch-hour Session**
Wed 2 May 2007 at USB
12:30–14:00, Venue: Room 212
 - **Daniel Malan** introducing the "Unit for Corporate Governance and Business Ethics in Africa"
 - **Sindiswa Mzamo** introducing the O'Shea Foundation
- 26/27 June 2007 Learning Lab in Gauteng (details via secretariat)

4. Networking Partners

All across South Africa corporates, NGOs, academics and business institutions are involved in efforts and initiatives to help low-income communities and facilitate grassroots development processes. Many of these could benefit from interacting and networking within the context of the BoP Learning Lab Programme. Facilitation of such networking is a key goal of the BoP Programme.

5. Project Database

Knowledge about other business-focused grassroots projects “at the Bottom of the Pyramid” can help corporates and development facilitators in the planning and evaluation of their own initiatives. The BoP-Programme has started a database of such projects, with scope for the profiling of case studies and the circulation of Project Fact Sheets. This information will soon be available to all BoP (SA) “members”.

6. ‘Development through Business’ Website

We are working on a USB-linked website to facilitate communication with South(ern) African partners and BP-related bodies internationally.

7. Steering Committee

Proposals for nominees for a broad-based Steering Committee, to help guide the evolution of the BoP Programme steered from USB are currently received, with details presented in the May Newsletter.

8. Material Circulated/Available

- Fact Sheet 1/2007 – BoP (Southern Africa) Framework
- Fact Sheet 2/2007 – Research Topics and Focus Areas
- Report on Dec 2006 Conference (Lab 1)
- Documents presented at the L/Lab 1
- Proposal for Khayelitsha-Mitchells Plain Project
- Background to the Centre for Development Policy & Partnership at the USB

➤ Potential partner bodies should forward contact addresses to the BoP-secretariat

➤ Regularly updated contact lists are available on request (and soon via our website)

➤ Use the sheet headed ‘Database of **Development through Business** Projects’ (p.4 of Fact Sheet 2/2007) to channel basic information on such projects to the secretariat

➤ Keep an eye on www.usb.sun.ac.za

➤ Also see www.bopnetwork.org operated by the BoP Learning Lab Network

➤ Keen to join such an informal team? Contact the secretariat

➤ Contact the secretariat for electronic copies of these reports

Finally, readers of this inaugural Newsletter are invited to forward relevant news items for future (monthly) issues.

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