



Successful seminar held on “Models of Microfinance in Southeast Asia – Experiences and Chances for Myanmar”

In Rangoon, the largest city of Myanmar (also known as Burma), a two-day seminar took place on models of microfinance in Southeast Asia. Representatives of ten non-government organisations (NGOs) were among the participants. In addition, the seminar was attended by representatives from the German and Philippine embassy as well as from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Besides getting acquainted with various microfinance models applied in the region (Philippines, Vietnam and Laos), it was discussed with local representatives how Myanmar's microfinance sector could be structured in the long run.

For the rest of the year it is planned to disseminate the microfinance experience gained by Sparkassenstiftung and the microfinance institution CARD (Philippines) with the help of two to three trust-building seminars on general microfinance topics, thus learning more about the actual needs in this specific field on site in Myanmar.

Already in December 2010 first contacts with NGOs in Myanmar were made within the scope of a feasibility study to identify measures for combating poverty and improving the opportunities in life for deprived groups and poor people in Myanmar.

The seminars are executed within the scope of Sparkassenstiftung's regional project in Indochina, which is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). As they are geared towards poverty alleviation, the seminars fall under the rules of exemption from the EU sanctions against Myanmar.

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