THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION
ADVOCACY CENTRE

FIVE DAY WORKSHOP ON

FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

A Participative Workshop For Central Bankers, Ministries of Finance, Financial Sector Development & Financial Inclusion Professionals, Commercial & Microfinance Bankers, NBFIs, DFIs, MFIs, Consultants, FINTECH & RegTech Companies, Investors, Insurers & Pension Funds

Dubai, UAE

August 31, 2020 - September 4, 2020
(8 Hour Session for Each Day)

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FINANCIAL INCLUSION ADVOCACY CENTRE

The Financial Inclusion Advocacy Centre is an international action-oriented and practice-based think-tank geared toward promoting sustained financial inclusion and responsible microfinance. The Financial Inclusion Advocacy Centre's mission is to build the institutional strength and outreach of the inclusive finance sector, by providing a full range of high-quality, best-practice technical inputs and support to all industry stakeholders, in a sustainable and demand-driven manner. As an independent support centre, FIAC is committed to promoting innovations, transparency, and enhanced access/outreach especially to the poor and thereby contributing to United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG # 1) and its sub-goals, which include achieving 100% financial inclusion by 2030 across the globe.

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 is an extremely severe health and economic crisis that is hugely impacting our lives. There are no two ways about it. Several aspects make COVID-19 a very distinctive crisis. First, it is a highly unsystematic and uncharacteristic fusion of a deadly disease with an economic catastrophe. Second, its burgeoning growth has seen it become a global phenomenon in a very, very short period of time. Third, as economists would call it, it is both a severe supply and demand side shock. Put differently, it is an unparalleled global macro-economic shock of uncertain magnitude and duration. The uncertainty is what makes it so very dangerous. Fourth, its impact is multi-faceted and includes infection, death and loss of loved ones, human distress in many forms (such as job losses, lack of food and nutrition, loss of education, even if it may be temporary), greater indebtedness, severe global recession caused by a deep prolonged (uncertain) contraction in economic activities, brutal individual and corporate (financial) distress, huge stress on the financial systems (thereby making the supply of credit to the real economy a major concern), stoppage of flow of capital due to risk aversion by investors and other stakeholders and so on. While the general financial services industry has been affected hugely, much of the same applies to the financial inclusion sector—where all stakeholders ranging from low income clients to MFIs, NBFIs, Banks and Central Banks have been deeply impacted. **It is in this context that this five day participative workshop is being organized by the FIAC. The details of the proposed workshop are given below.**

SESSION PLAN

Daily Session Plan (with cases and experiential learning)

- **Day 1:** Financial Inclusion in the COVID Era and Practical Implications for Various Stakeholders;
- **Day 2:** Building World-Class Financial Institutions (Banks, NBFIs, MFIs, FINTECHS and Cooperatives) in the COVID Era. This session will look at Governance, Management Practices, Products, Delivery Mechanisms and so on;
- **Day 3:** Building Resilient and Adaptive Agriculture Value Chains in the COVID Era;
- **Day 4:** Bridging the Digital Divide and Ushering in Seamless Digitization in the COVID Era; and
- **Day 5:** Adapting to the New Normal in Regulation and Supervision and Wrap Up Discussions.

- **Workshop Format:** Every session, every day will use experiential learning in a SAFE, SANITIZED and SOCIALLY DISTANCED environment with mikes (for speaking). Hand sanitizers and masks will be available in plenty for external use. The training halls will be disinfected everyday. There will be regular temperature checks as well. Thus, the workshop will be conducted in an extremely safe and secure manner. The workshop will follow the following generic format: **Facilitator Presentation(s), Small Group Exercises, Group Presentation(s) and Discussions with Wrap Up.**

Workshop Takeaway (s):

1. Digital copy of all presentations and key workshops resources in a flash drive,
2. Digital copy of the forthcoming (new) book by Ramesh S Arunachalam, "COVID-19: Implications for Financial Inclusion, MSME Development and Agriculture",
3. Digital copy of the forthcoming (new) book by Ramesh S Arunachalam, "Building Stable, Inclusive and World-Class Financial Institutions in the COVID Era",
4. Digital copy of a compendium of research with available links on COVID-19 and Financial Inclusion, and
5. A workshop report to be emailed to the participants three weeks after the completion of the workshop.

FACILITATORS

- RAMESH S ARUNACHALAM is author of 14 critically acclaimed books. Apart from being an author, Ramesh provides strategic advice on a wide variety of Financial Sector, Financial Inclusion and Economic Development issues. He has worked in over 314 assignments with multi-laterals, governments, private sector, Banks, NBFCs, regulators, supervisors, MFIs and other stakeholders in 31 countries across 5 continents and 640 districts of India during the last 31 years.

- GODFREY LORD KWESI CRENTSIL is a Microfinance expert with over 15 years' experience in microfinance development and supervision. Trained and practiced extensively in most African and European countries as well as the MENA region.

APPLICATION

The application deadline for this workshop is August 24th, 2020. Please note that we do select applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Nevertheless, we will try to form a group of participants with complementary experiences and backgrounds.

REGISTRATION

Please fill the attached registration form and send it to **info@financialinclusionadvocacy.org.** Once accepted, the workshop logistics and other details will be sent to you.

FEES

The workshop fees are US $ 2500 and it includes boarding & lodging with breakfast & lunch for 5 days, all course materials & tea/coffee/biscuits twice everyday during the workshop.

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REGISTRATION FORM

FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

Title	
First Name	
Last Name	
Organisation	
Address	
Telephone	
E Mail	
Academic Qualification	

CANCELLATION POLICY: You may make a substitution, without charge, at any time before the start of the course but all cancellations/changes must be confirmed in writing. Cancellations received more than four weeks prior to the start of the course are not subject to any penalty. Cancellation received after that incurs the following penalties: two to four weeks, 50% of the course fee; less than two weeks, 100% of the course fee. If written notification is not received and you do not attend, the full course fee will be retained as a cancellation charge. Thank You!

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