

Social Finance Update

Your monthly insight into financial sector developments and Decent Work

Rokin Banks - 70 years of efforts to build an inclusive society in Japan by enhancing workers' access to finance

Social Finance has released a new working paper on Rokin Banks in Japan. This paper documents the experience of Japanese union-led cooperative financial institutions and trade unions in enhancing workers' access to finance. Rokin Banks have been around since the early 1950s and now form a unique network serving millions of members across Japan.



[Read more](#)

KNOWLEDGE UPDATE



Emerging Insights: Our 10-year anniversary and the future of Impact Insurance

2018 was a special year for the ILO's Impact Insurance Facility as we celebrated our ten-year anniversary. Our latest Emerging Insight showcases some [highlights of our anniversary year](#). Also see an earlier Emerging Insight that presents our thoughts on the [future of impact insurance](#).



New blogs: the quinoa value chain in Peru

Since 2005 quinoa has ascended from being an obscure Andean food staple to becoming a global superfood. [This two-part blog series](#) explores the issues faced by farmers and small businesses in the quinoa value chain and the role of financial services in helping farmers take advantage of opportunities in quinoa production.



Case Brief: MicroEnsure's Innovation Lab

The Facility has released its latest [Case Brief featuring MicroEnsure's Innovation Lab](#). MicroEnsure has over a decade of experience of introducing insurance innovations for the low-income market. As MicroEnsure grew it has had to learn how to keep a strong focus on innovation whilst also maintaining its existing business. One way it has tried to do so has been by implementing innovation labs that focus on experimentation and product development. [Click here](#) to read about MicroEnsure's innovation labs and the process they follow to design new products.

NEW PUBLICATION



New infographic

The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) of Ghana has launched an electronic platform to enable NHIS members to renew their membership easily through their feature phone. [Check out this infographic](#) showing the process from design to nationwide launch and the improvements in member experience and financial gains for NHIS.

EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS

The 2019 Impact Insurance Academy

The ILO's Impact Insurance Facility and the International Training Centre of the ILO are organizing the 2019 edition of the Impact Insurance Academy. The academy will take place from July 8 to 12 in Turin, Italy. We are glad to announce that five members (first come, first served) of the Microinsurance Network can now avail of a 20% discount on the tuition fee! These members can send an email to the MIN at info@microinsurancenet.org. [Click here](#) to learn more and [click here](#) to read testimonials from enthusiastic participants in last year's Academy.

Mobile money: State of the industry report

The GSM Association (GSMA) has released its annual "State of the industry report", monitoring progress, challenges and ground-breaking mobile money industry trends. [Click here](#) to read the full report.



Webinar on the first actuarial analysis of Pakistan's Sehat Sahulat Programme



The Boulder Institute of Microfinance announces new trainings in 2019

- recording now available

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6 - December 13	"ILO Entrepreneurship Trainers Academy" - Turin, Italy and online
May 14-17	Training on "Market research for inclusive insurance: How to translate consumer insights into improved results" - Lagos, Nigeria
June 11-14	Training on "Market research for inclusive insurance: How to translate consumer insights into improved results" - Kampala, Uganda
June 18-21	Training on "Market research for inclusive insurance: How to translate consumer insights into improved results" - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
July 8 -12	"2019 Impact Insurance Academy" - in Turin, Italy

OTHER INTERESTING READS

- The Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii) has released a [new study](#), discussing the role of insurance regulators in dealing with risks relating to consumer data protection and privacy
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, Gilles Renouil, director of insurance products at Women's World Banking, has written this interesting blog: [Can insurance be affordable when you earn 5-6\\$ a day?](#)



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