Yemen Microfinance Network conducts the second annual dinner and honors the best member and the best practitioner in 2012

For the second year, respectively, Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN) conducts the Annual Dinner for all its MFI members and microfinance sector players. The event was conducted on 25th February 2013. YMN aims through this event to create communication between MFIs and players in the microfinance sector which will unite efforts and progress the microfinance industry in Yemen.

The event was attended by Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Dr. Mohammed Alsadi, Dutch Deputy Ambassador Mrs. Renata Bourse, Deputy Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Mr. Nabil Suhaili, a representative from the Social Fund for Development, all YMN members, NGOs, media persons and different related organizations.

In the Chief Guest Speech delivered by H.E Minister of Planning, Dr. Alsadi stressed that “Yemen has enormous powers because of its strategic geographical location. It also has people of experience and several success stories, but they are still beyond the borders.” In her speech, Miss. Nagwa Faddal, YMN Vice Chairman of Board of Directors, reviewed the various activities and events conducted by YMN over the past year, most notably the Microfinance Clients Fair. Miss. Nagwa indicated that YMN implemented 25 training courses during the past years which benefited 547 direct participants. At the same time, Miss. Nagwa thanked the Social Fund for Development for continuously supporting YMN. YMN Managing Director Miss. Najah Al-Mujahed indicated that YMN works indirectly to contribute in alleviating poverty and reducing unemployment through training, developing and building the capacity of MFI’s.

YMN Research and Development Executive Mr. Khalil AlMiklafi presented as well the “Seven Consumer Protection Guidelines” which is a global effort to ensure that MFIs don’t exploit and damage poor people.

After presenting the criteria of selecting the winners, both the Minister and the YMN Managing Director delivered the best Member award of the year 2012 to AlAmal Microfinance Bank and the best Practitioner award of the Year 2012 to Aden Microfinance Foundation. The Social Fund for Development also received a plaque in Acknowledgement of its continued support and great efforts for YMN. As YMN congratulates the winners it also wishes all success to other members.

Yemen Microfinance Network conducts special training courses in partnership with Sanabel and IFC

YMN conducted a workshop titled (Corporate Governance) in cooperation with IFC on February 25th, 2013. The workshop targeted YMN’s board of directors, as well as boards of all network’s member MFIs.

The workshop was presented by Prof. Dawood Al-Hudab and Dr. Amira El Saeed IFC’s Operations Officer from Egypt.

Also, in partnership with Sanabel the Arab Microfinance Network, YMN conducted the Seep Tool Financial Analysis training in Yemen during the period 09 – 13 March. The training was offered to all MFI members of YMN and Sanabel.

The training witnessed international participation, and was attended by 26 participants from various organizations including Jordan’s Microfund, and SFD Yemen as well as participants from many other MFIs in Yemen.

The training was presented by Sanabel’s Certified Trainer Mr. Fauzi El-Beltagi from Egypt and Mr. Ahmed Al-Aghbari from SFD Yemen. All participants expressed their extreme benefit from this course.

Signing Agreement between the Economic Opportunities Fund and Alkuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank and Tadhamon Microfinance Program

The Economic Opportunities Fund signed a partnership agreement with Alkuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank and Tadhamon Microfinance Program to provide financial services in rural areas.

The Economic Opportunities Fund shall implement programs financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Islamic Development Bank and the European Union, which aims to improve the economic situation and create sustainable economic opportunities for poor people in the areas covered by those programs as they include the following:

1) The program of economic opportunities aims to improve the chains of agricultural value such as coffee, honey, and vegetables in the villages.
2) Fish investment program aims to improve the fish sector in all villages engaged in fishing activities.
3) Rural employment program aims to create sustainable job opportunities along with promoting non-agricultural value chains (particularly natural stones and textiles) in the selected villages.

In this regard, the economic opportunities fund aims to support the microfinance banks which support the poor people and help them increase their access to the rural regions, as well as develop new various financial products or alternative which meet the needs and requirements of customers in the rural areas.

This conforms with the mission of Alkuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank and AlTadhamon MF to contribute in the economic and social development and improvement of living standards of the Yemeni society, through providing various financial and distinctive services, including savings, financing small and micro productive projects based on the rules of Islamic Shari’a, and continue the path of occupying a leading position in the banking sector, through seeking to integrate the professional cost-effective mechanisms and a good return for shareholders and depositors and typical customer service.

Poor Finance Poor and Get the Highest Profit Rate in the Yemeni Microfinance Market in 2012 Alam Bank

Unprecedently in Yemen and Middle East, Al-Amal Microfinance Bank announces the highest annual returns on its savings scheme amongst Yemeni MFIs for 2012, 14% for riyal deposits and 5% for dollar deposits. AMB aims through providing saving and deposit service to encourage saving culture amongst segments that have never dealt with any financial institutions especially youth, micro and small entrepreneurs and the low/limited income households.

AMB encourages youth and poor to regularly save a low amount of money and then use it to finance poor who wants to establish their own micro and small enterprises in order to create an income source to improve their economic and social living conditions. AMB savers range from children, youth, women to men, and all of them are from poor and low income households.

For the purpose of encouraging and spreading this culture widely and continuously, AMB announced the highest profit rate in the financial market for dollar and riyal and to achieve its mission and vision i.e. (improving the living conditions for Yemenis, especially youth and low and limited income households) regardless whether they are borrowers or savers.

On this occasion, AMB call the businessmen and capitalists to deposit their money in AMB to enable them to finance youth entrepreneurs which will contribute in alleviating poverty and unemployment rate as part of their social mission, and they will get financial returns like any other Islamic banks in the Yemeni market. It’s worth mentioning that AMB invests its money and provides its services in compliance with Islamic shari’a and financed more than 63,000 enterprises as of the end of February, 2013 amounting to YER 3 billion, creating about 35,000 job opportunities since inception.
As a result, the reduction became the minimum funding at rate (%12) and the maximum at rate(%18), while the women groups and small groups remained at rate(%18). It also re-created its products in terms of increasing the credit demand to the maximum up to (2,500,000)YR and reducing the minimum of the individual product available for the amounts ranging between (25,000 – 1,000,000)YR, and with Murabaha rates between (%16 - %24), which accepts the soft guarantees such as non-endorsed commercial guarantees, staff Takaful, and endorsed commercial guarantees. The individual product is boosted for the amounts ranging between (550 – 2,600,000) YR and with Murabaha rates between (12 - 18%), which accepts excellent guarantees ( gold, deposit/ bank guarantee letter), in addition to the pension and contractors with the program, as well as the product of women groups for the amounts of (25,000 – 250,000) YR at rate (%25). The program introduced several additional features such as three-year financing, and provides period of permission is needed. It also introduced changes in the mechanisms of calculating ratios of Murabaha so that the customer benefits from the program. The maximum length of two years is less than the twice the rate of one year, in addition to the re-distribution of the expenses of implementation as they have become more fairly and ranging between (3,500)YR, the bank also intends to introduce Takaful insurance service soon which will exempt the deceased or unable customer from the rest of the premium. The program signed an agreement with the Economic Opportunities Fund (see page 1) to finance rural areas and activities such as farmers, fishermen, craftsmen, apiaries, and owners of small factories. Based on this agreement, the fund will train the farmers and fishermen through IFAD organization of the United Nations to improve and increase the value of their products and enrich the chains of values, as well as help them to form associations to be financed by the bank.

The program also signed an agreement with Magelsen Lufthansa City Center Aviation which target to employ more than (10,000) jobless people, through a product (youth Takaful), which will enable the targeted to sell travel tickets and with a bank guarantee letter with specific rates of the program for those who fully met the requirements.

The number of funds for February has reached (716), with a total amount of (156,932,422)YR. Thus, the number of the cumulative funds until the end of February reached (21,600), with a total cumulative amount of (4,316,069,985) YR. The number of active customers reached (6,003) and active funds are also (6,113) of a value of active portfolio with Murabaha (1,076,733,9500)YR.