

The 2011 AFI Global Policy Forum

Welcome remarks by Guillermo Babatz Torres, President of the Banking and Securities Commission of Mexico

Distinguidos amigas y amigos,

On behalf of the National Banking & Securities Commission of Mexico; I would like to welcome you to Mexico and its Riviera Maya.

In the past 2 years Mexico has been welcomed in several AFI member countries such as Kenya, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Peru, countries where AFI members have summoned one another to discuss Financial Inclusion. Today the time has come for Mexico to reciprocate the hospitality we have always enjoyed.

I know some of you have traveled a very long way to be here and therefore we would like to recognize your commitment towards Financial Inclusion with a warm welcome. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you need anything else to make you feel comfortable.

Mayakoba, which means "city among rivers", is the stage for this Third Global Policy Forum of our network and a new opportunity to continue sharing experiences on how our countries are responding to the task of providing better opportunities for all segments of our population.

Here at the shore of the Mexican Caribbean, in the coming days, policy makers and stakeholders, all leaders that aren't afraid to innovate, will pause from their busy schedules to face the state of Financial Inclusion in our countries and on the global scene. Under the theme: "Taking Stock-Setting goals-Moving forward" each of us is invited to stop for a moment, reflect back on our successes but look ahead and have clear yet aspirational vision for the path ahead. We must ask tough questions about how much progress we have made, as a network, since our first gathering in Nairobi two years ago, how much we have delivered since we were inspired by President Susilo Bambang last year in Bali who challenged us by saying "innovative financial inclusion cannot be business as usual". So what have we done to think outside of the box, to pioneer new ways to change our system so that it suits more of our people?

We should take full advantage of the opportunity of being among our peers, and in the company of many global experts, all fully committed to financial inclusion. With the objectivity of those knowing the sheer scale of the task ahead, but are also not afraid to recognize that we have much to learn, and are ready to record progress without false modesty. We must be aware that the impacts we hope for in the future will depend on the solutions we design in the present.

In the coming days, I would like to invite you to be part of this annual exercise of sharing with a critical mind and a participative spirit, I would challenges you to help form a vision as to where

we should aim to be in a year from now, both as a network but also as individual country members - and to translate this vision into concrete goals.

Dear friends,

I wish you a pleasant stay framed by the traditional hospitality of our people, and the right balance of sun and sea. And more importantly a multi-colored hint of Mexico. We hope you come back to continue exploring our country's culture, cuisine and determination.

We wish you a very pleasant stay.

Bienvenidos!

Thank you