

CALLING ALL MEMBERS...!

Microfinance

❖ Interested in participating in telephone interviews with microfinance institutions (“MFIs”), gathering information on their risk management training needs?

In November 2006, PRiM was invited by the ATTF to participate in a Risk Management workshop during the government-sponsored Microfinance Week. The event was attended by representatives of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), local finance professionals and a broad range of other interested parties.

The workshop, entitled “*Challenges for MFIs in risk management*”, was co-chaired by Yves Mertens & Bernard Herman (Bernard is a PRiM board member). The result was the decision to form a working group under the sponsorship of the ATTF (www.attf.lu), including **PRiM** and ADA – Appui au Développement Autonome (www.microfinance.lu).

This group has developed a questionnaire which is to be sent to a dozen MFIs across the globe to obtain some initial data on their risk management needs. Once the results of this introductory questionnaire have been collated, it is intended to hold telephone interviews with each of the respondents. **In order to avoid this work falling on the shoulders of one or two individuals, PRiM would like to invite members who are interested in joining this exercise.**

One anticipated consequence of this work is the need to devise specific training solutions and so the potential follow-up work would be to assist in this effort. This microfinance project would be one contributory stream in a broader training initiative which is being undertaken by **PRiM** over the coming months.

If there is sufficient interest, a meeting will be held to explain the project in more details prior to the telephone interviews, which will probably take place late October / early November depending upon the availability of those involved.

Any person interested in joining the telephone interview process should contact Bernard Herman (bernard@herman.as) or Michael May (michaelmay@lu.hsbc.com) for further information.