The Fletcher School Leadership Program for Financial Inclusion is an innovative training initiative designed for banking regulators and policymakers from emerging and frontier markets to promote and further develop their work on policy and regulation in financial services for the poor. The program includes:

- A two-week training session focused on key content issues in financial inclusion, the global context shaping these topics, and the relevant skills needed by regulators to effectively promote their policy objectives, such as policy negotiation, persuasion, media communications, presenting, writing, and problem-solving. The residency will culminate in a two-day Financial Inclusion Forum sponsored by MasterCard Worldwide involving a wider constituency of government and industry players.
- Guided development of an original policy memo pertinent to a timely in-country issue in financial inclusion; and
- A final working session at the annual Alliance for Financial Inclusion Global Policy Forum.

The training is held at The Fletcher School, the United States’ first professional graduate school of international relations, and is administered by Fletcher’s Center for Emerging Market Enterprises (CEME). The Fletcher School, part of Tufts University, is located in Medford, Massachusetts.

The program is led by CEME Senior Fellow Kim Wilson, Lecturer in International Business at The Fletcher School, a seasoned microfinance practitioner, and co-editor of Financial Promise for the Poor: How Groups Build Microsavings; and advised by Nicholas Sullivan, also a CEME Senior Fellow and author of Money, Real Quick: Kenya’s Mobile-Money Innovation and You Can Hear Me Now: How Microloans and Cell Phones are Connecting the World’s Poor to the Global Economy.

The Fletcher School Leadership Program for Financial Inclusion is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
Program Requirements

- Submission of a formal application and documentation of institutional support to attend, and acceptance of the application after a competitive review process;
- Commitment to developing, researching, and drafting an original policy memo (1,500-2,000 words) in advance of the Spring 2013 residency, seeking and incorporating input from other Fellows and advisors during the residency, and finalizing the draft for formal/informal distribution immediately following the residency;
- Attendance at a two-week residency/training session at The Fletcher School in Medford, Massachusetts, USA in Spring 2013 (tentative dates are April 21-May 3, 2013); and
- Attendance and reporting on policy memo implementation at the AFI Global Policy Forum in Fall 2013.

Program Size

In its pilot year, the program hosted nine regulators from eight countries. In 2012-2013, the program will be expanded to include 15 Fellows.

To Apply

The program seeks strong applicants committed to the cause of financial inclusion in their home countries and beyond, and who have institutional support to develop their leadership skills. Contact CEME@tufts.edu to request an application. The application period is October 22-December 1, 2012.

The application will comprise 3-5 short answer questions regarding applicants’ motivation to attend, professional development goals, and perspective on financial inclusion. Applicants will also be asked to propose a tentative topic for their policy memos, and to gain documented input from their senior supervisors regarding their proposed topics.

2011 Program Fellows and Administrators

Back row—Program Fellows (left to right): Michael Mukete, Bank of Namibia; Siti Hidayati, Bank Indonesia; Matu Mugo, Central Bank of Kenya; Luis Treviño Garza, CNBV; Stephen Mwaura, Central Bank of Kenya; Generose Tabaro, Bank of Tanzania; Franklin Belnye, Bank of Ghana; Pia Roman, Central Bank of the Philippines

Front row—Program administrators (left to right): Nicholas Sullivan, Program Advisor; Stacy Neal, Program Administrator; Claire Alexandre, Program Advisor; Kimberley Wilson, Program Director; Miranda Fasulo, Program Coordinator

Fellows not pictured: Narda Sotomayor, Superintendency of Banks, Insurance and Pension Funds, Lima, Peru