



VisionFund
CAMBODIA



SATHAPANA Bank PLC. (SPN) and Vision Fund Cambodia (VFC) the Second bank/Microfinance Institution in Cambodia Certified for Commitment to Client Protection

02nd May 2016, SATHAPANA Bank PLC. (SPN) and Vision Fund Cambodia (VFC) have been 100% officially recognized as “Client Protection Certified” by the Smart Campaign for meeting strong standards of client care thanks to M-CRIL as the Certifier. SPN and VFC both are the second financial institution in Cambodia to be awarded this prestigious certification out of the 10 MFIs pursuing such recognition funded by French Development Agency (AFD) under the “Client Protection Initiative” project implemented by Cambodia Microfinance Association (CMA). For more information about M-CRIL, visit: www.m-cril.com

Client Protection initiative is aiming to contribute to the stability and promotion of responsible finance with a view to ensuring a sustainable growth for the microfinance sector in Cambodia. Among several actions aimed at fighting against the risk of clients’ over-indebtedness, CMA is disseminating and ensuring the implementation of the Client Protection Principles (CPPs) in which CMA has been supporting top 10 MFIs in Cambodia to achieve Client Protection Certification through Smart Campaign.

The Smart Campaign is a global initiative which exists to ensure strong client-protection practices in the microfinance industry. The Smart Campaign’s Client Protection Certification program publicly recognizes institutions providing financial services to low-income households, whose standards of care uphold the Smart Campaign’s seven Client Protection Principles covering important areas such as pricing, transparency, fair and respectful treatment and prevention of over-indebtedness. The certification program contains a rigorous set of standards against which institutions are evaluated by independent, third-party raters that are licensed by the Smart Campaign. More information about Smart Campaign, visit: www.smartcampaign.org

In order to meet the strict guidelines outlined by the Smart Campaign for certification, **SPN and VFC** worked under the overall coordination of CMA and AFD with the Technical Assistance from Smart Campaign and Good Return over the past year. Good Return provided technical assistance in the areas of: financial client protection, poverty measurement and reporting and financial capability development of clients.

Mr. Yun Sovanna, General Secretary of CMA, said: “I congratulate SPN and VFC for this historic achievement, and strongly believe that together with the remaining MFIs under this initiative, they are becoming the champion for the other MFIs on pathway toward Smart Certification. I’d love to thank to AFD for the financial support and my colleague, Mr. Ear Techkung, as the project manager for overall project coordination, and I am proud of our chairman who always contribute to the best achievement of CMA and the project so far”.

About SATHAPANA Bank Plc.

SATHAPANA Bank Plc. was established as a Cambodian non-government organization (NGO) in 1995, under the name of Cambodia Community Building (CCB), to offer financial and health education services to poor communities. After financial grants were finished in late 1999, CCB adopted a minimalist microfinance approach focusing purely on credit loans and saving services. As a result, the lending operations shifted gradually from predominantly village banking group loans to a mix of solidarity group lending and individual lending. The CCB put forth its efforts to transform into a licensed microfinance institution.

The CCB registered at Ministry of Commerce in February 2003 with the new name “Cambodian Entrepreneur Building Limited.” In April 2003, CEB obtained a license of microfinance institution from the National Bank of Cambodia. The name of company was changed to Sathapana Limited (SPN) with Reachasey, the king of animals as its logo in 2008. Sathapana Limited was the first MFI to obtain deposit taking license from the National Bank of Cambodia in January 2009. Sathapana merged with MARUHAN Japan Bank to form a big commercial bank in Cambodia, and the company received a commercial banking license from National Bank of Cambodia in March 2016. SATHAPANA Bank Plc. is providing saving, loan, remittance, ATM products and many other banking services. For more information about SATHAPANA Bank Plc., visit: www.sathapana.com.kh

About Vision Fund Cambodia

Vision Fund is a social leading Microfinance Institution (MFI) in Cambodia and the only licensed Microfinance institution that has a global network of more than 30 countries with mission to brighter future for children, empower families to create income and jobs, and unlock economic potential for communities to thrive.

As of April 2016, Vision Fund Cambodia has 111 provincial and district branches covering in 25 provinces, 144 districts, and 1,550 communes. We employed over 1,500 highly trained employees and maintained a loan portfolio of over US\$133 million. We serve over 260,000 borrowers mainly in rural communities. Vision Fund Cambodia has contributed to numerous communities and educational projects in Cambodia as a result more than 840,000 children have been positively impacted. For more information about Vision Fund Cambodia, visit: www.visionfund.com.kh

About Cambodia Microfinance Association (CMA)

The Cambodia Microfinance Association is an NGO and professional association that aims to ensure the prosperity and sustainability of the microfinance sector in Cambodia. CMA plays a vital role in creating local and international networks as well as seeking equity and loan funds, new technologies and overseeing conflict resolution between microfinance operators. For more information about CMA, visit: www.cma-network.org

About French Development Agency (AFD)

AFD is a public development finance institution 100% hold by the French State that has been working to fight poverty and foster economic growth in developing countries and overseas territories for more than seventy years. In Cambodia since 1993, AFD has been supporting the microfinance sector as from the beginning for an accessible and inclusive finance. For more information about AFD, visit: www.afd.fr/lang/en/home

About Good Return

Established in 2003, Good Return is a non-profit organization that works across the Asia Pacific to deliver economic and social development programs for the financially and socially excluded. Sharing with others the vision of a world without poverty, Good Return is proud to be one of the leading supporters of financial inclusion across the Asia Pacific region. Good Return is an affiliate of World Education, and has its head office in Sydney, Australia. For more information about Good Return, visit: <http://programs.goodreturn.org>