MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Exchange and Collaboration
The Council of Microfinance Equity Funds (CMEF) is a unique forum, in that is the only venue in which direct investors in microfinance can meet, exchange ideas and experiences, and hold frank discussions about their challenges and strategies in a collegial environment. Meetings are purposely kept small in order to facilitate conversation, so that members can speak openly and honestly about their concerns and learn from each others’ experiences.

Forward-looking Industry Research
The Council is seen as a “go-to” resource for information on industry challenges, trends and opportunities. Members have an opportunity to both voice their concerns and ideas through industry publications and to benefit from the release of such publications.

Member-only Initiatives
The Council undertakes a number of initiatives that ultimately provide information and benefits only to CMEF members. These initiatives encompass a variety of research topics – from valuation to governance to compensation practices.

Events
The CMEF organizes a Council-wide meeting every six to nine months, typically for two days of discussion, case studies and networking. Other meetings, including conference calls and smaller working group roundtables, are held on an ad hoc basis.

Promotion of Investors’ Perspective
CMEF works to raise awareness about microfinance investment, by representing the investors’ perspective, dedication to a double bottom line, and industry best practices and standards. On this front, it works not only within the microfinance industry but also within the broader emerging markets, investment, and socially responsible communities.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The Council membership is comprised of active investors in financial inclusion. Qualifications for membership include the following:

- Primarily private ownership structure
- Focus on double bottom line
- Focus on financial inclusion
- At least two existing equity investments in financial inclusion
- Active in governance
- Ability to pay annual fees of $5,000 in a timely manner
- Willingness to actively participate in CMEF meetings and initiatives
CMEF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
Accion Global Investments
Bamboo Finance
Caspian Advisors
Catalyst Microfinance Investors
Citi Microfinance
Compartamos
Creation Investments Capital Management
Danish Microfinance Partners
Developing World Markets
Développement International Desjardins
Equator Capital Partners
FINCA International
Grassroots Capital Management
Grupo ACP
Norwegian Microfinance Initiative
Oikocredit
Omtrix International
Opportunity International
responsAbility
Triodos Investment Management
Triple Jump
WWB Asset Management

CMEF PROJECTS

Microfinance Banana Skins Report
The Microfinance Banana Skins report, now in its fourth year, reflects the changing perceptions of risk in a dynamic and fast-moving industry. The CMEF sits on the Steering Committee for this renowned industry publication, which is sponsored by Citi, Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (CSFI), and CGAP. The Banana Skins report examines the most significant and fastest growing risks in the microfinance sector, based on a survey of industry practitioners, investors, regulators, and experts.

The Practice of Corporate Governance
In 2005, the Council published *The Practice of Corporate Governance in Shareholder-Owned Microfinance Institutions* to address the special governance considerations that MFIs face in a practical and candid manner. As much has changed in the field of microfinance since 2005, the Council has updated this reference document in 2012 as *The Practice of Corporate Governance in Microfinance Institutions*. This updated document reflects new thinking and resources that have emerged in the microfinance industry around governance since the original version.

Board Remuneration
The CMEF has surveyed members regarding Board remuneration practices at MFIs to understand how MFIs are currently compensating their board members. This survey is being conducted in collaboration with the MicroFinance Network (MFN) in order to collect data from both MFIs and Funds to increase transparency for Council members on this issue.

The “Get Real” Valuation Project
While plenty of data exists on debt returns, data is still lacking on equity returns. The “Get Real” Valuation Project provides an opportunity for CMEF members to openly share their actual returns with other Council members confidentially.

CGAP and J.P. Morgan Global Microfinance Valuation Survey
Since 2009, the Council has supported CGAP and J.P. Morgan in producing an annual series of Global Microfinance Valuation Surveys. This report combines CGAP and CMEF knowledge of microfinance with J.P. Morgan’s equity research skills in emerging markets. The objective of the project is to provide benchmarks for valuation of microfinance equity.

Over-Indebtedness and Microfinance
In 2011, CMEF collaborated with responsAbility, Triodos, and the Center for Microfinance at the University of Zurich to publish *Over-Indebtedness and Microfinance: Constructing an Early Warning Index*.

For more information about the CMEF, please visit www.cmef.com