



SEDI and CFED to host first Global Asset Action Network meeting in Washington

The network will bring together organizations from across the world to connect and share ideas on saving and asset building for the poor.

Toronto, July 12, 2010 - Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI) and its sister organization in the U.S., the [Corporation for Enterprise Development](#) (CFED), will host the first meeting of the new Global Asset Action Network (GAAN) on September 21, 2010 in Washington, D.C. The by-invitation-only event is funded by the Levi Strauss Foundation, Ashoka, SEDI and CFED.

GAAN (pronounced 'gain') was created to foster a global learning exchange for organizations in developing and developed countries that are committed to providing new opportunities for the marginalized to save money and develop assets as a route out of poverty. More than 25 representatives from leading asset-building organizations in 15 nations across four continents are expected to attend the meeting. As an added bonus for participants, the GAAN kick-off assembly will be held the day before CFED's [Assets Learning Conference](#), the largest national asset-building gathering.

The GAAN project was envisioned by Ashoka Senior Fellow and SEDI Founder and Executive Director Peter Nares with the support of Robert Friedman, General Counsel, Founder and Chair of the Board of CFED.

"Networking has been an extremely valuable tool in advancing SEDI and CFED's domestic savings and asset-building agendas," said Peter Nares. "However, mobilizing opportunities for the poor to save and build assets is still a fairly new global policy concept. Many NGOs doing good work operate in a policy vacuum and with little peer support. GAAN will provide an opportunity for groups from around the globe to meet, learn and support each other."

"This convening will be one of the first occasions where activists from countries around the world working to open economic opportunity to impoverished people through saving and asset-building can learn from each other and better understand what transcends national and cultural boundaries, and what does not. It promises to make us all stronger and more effective in building a world where everyone has a chance to build a future for themselves and their families," noted Robert Friedman.

[Click here](#) for GAAN's discussion paper. For more information on the meeting agenda, list of participants and issues paper, please contact Caroline Munshaw at 416-665-2828, ext. 225, or at cmunshaw@sedi.org.

A report from the meeting will be posted on SEDI's website in October.

###