



Rebecca Ortega of the Philippines used small loans from Enterprise Mentors International to start a ready-to-wear clothing business. EMI announced its newest partner – Surgir in Lima, Peru – Tuesday.

Micro-credit group gets new partner

By TASHA SOTOMAYOR

Enterprise Mentors International announced Tuesday the establishment of its newest partner foundation, Surgir in Lima, Peru.

EMI is a private voluntary organization assisting the impoverished in developing countries to achieve self-sufficiency through self-help.

EMI establishes affiliate foundations in host countries and each foundation has its own local board of directors and indigenous staff. EMI provides support, training, consulting and loan capital.

According to a news release, Surgir will be lead by Rosa Aranguena Vilela as the executive director.

Vilela is a graduate of Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal in Lima where she completed her master's degree in administration.

She is a certified public accountant and has more than 20 years of experience as a manager of a government agency and

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Jaynann Payne
EMI Director

as a small business consultant.

Peru is a country of 24 million people. Fifty percent of the population lives in poverty, 43 percent are underemployed and an estimated 85 percent of the work force is employed in the informal marketplace. Lima, the capital, boasts 8 million inhabitants.

In 2002, EMI's partner foundations served 10,507 families — that is a 22 percent increase over the previous year and created 962 new jobs.

Partner foundations granted nearly \$1.7 million in small loans and impressively, over 95 percent of the loans are repaid in full interest, said Jaynann Payne, a director for EMI.

"One hundred percent of all contributions go directly to benefit the poor," said Michael Williams, EMI's director of development.

EMI's United States fundraising and overhead expenses are covered by special contributions from its board of directors, he said.

"EMI has partner foundations in three of the largest cities in the Philippines: Manila, Cebu, Davao and one foundation each in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru," Williams said. "Through these seven foundations EMI's assistance reaches 20 different cities."

Payne said the theme of their foundation is by Lao Tzu who said, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

EMI has chosen to expand the theme by adding, "Motivate him to teach others to fish and you feed a nation," she said.

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Payne said.

EMI has three goals: to educate, to help people make and keep promises, and to give people mentors and resources for help, she said.

"We give loans to people for simple things that will improve the living situations of entire families," Payne said. "You can feed 30 families by investing in one man."