

## Conference seeks to teach self-reliance

By Deanna Devey *NewsNet Staff Writer* - 12 Mar 2003

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The Marriott School will kick off BYU's Microenterprise Conference at 6:30 p.m. Thursday March 13 with a reception in Room 3228 of the Wilkinson Center.

The conference will run until Saturday with non-governmental organizations, micro-finance institutions, educators, students and volunteers gathering for workshops, discussions and breakout sessions.

The conference provides a venue for practitioners to share innovations and problems in their industries, said Todd Manwaring, executive director of BYU's program for economic self-reliance.

"It's the largest conference of its kind held anywhere," said Joseph Ogden, assistant dean of the Marriott School.

Five hundred people had pre-registered by Wednesday afternoon, and planners expect a thousand to register in all, Manwaring said.

Students attend the conference, as well as local, national and international organizations, Manwaring said.

The conference is free and open to the public. People can register at the door, Ogden said.

The conference has 1,000 to 2,000 attendees each year, said Warner Woodworth, a BYU faculty member who helped start the conference.

"Our long-term goal is to help alleviate poverty throughout the world by teaching the poor how to become self-reliant," Ogden said.