

# Microinsurance MBA Association of the Philippines (MiMAP)

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## **INSURANCE FORUM**

The Microinsurance MBA Association of the Philippines, Inc. (MiMAP), also known as RIMANSI Organization for Asia and the Pacific, is a formal association of Mutual Benefit Associations (MBAs) engaged in microinsurance. Its

underlying advocacy is financial inclusion. In this regard, the Insurance Commission has found a natural partner in its own advocacy of financial literacy, microinsurance, and promotion of insurance in general.

While mutualized insurance companies are also owned and managed by its members just like MBAs and can sell insurance to the general public, MBAs are only allowed to sell insurance to its own members. Microinsurance has in fact proliferated largely due to the presence of MBAs in the communities. Being members of these MBAs generates commitment to actively participate in its advocacies.

Rimansi started out as a microinsurance and MBA resource center founded on March 17, 2005. It provides technical assistance to microfinance institutions. Initially it was known as the Risk Management Solutions, Inc. (RIMANSI). Later it was known as the Rimansi Organization for Asia and the Pacific, Inc. The founding members of Rimansi were six Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), a rural bank, and an MBA, viz: Alalay sa Kaunlaran, Inc., Kasangyangan Foundation, Inc., People's Alternative Livelihood of Sorsogon, Inc., Rural Bank of Talisayan, Uswag Development Foundation, CARD MBA, CARD Bank, and CARD NGO. Rimansi has assisted microfinance institutions (MFIs) in the establishment of MBAs throughout the country. In 2015, after ten years of operations, Rimansi converted itself into a Microinsurance MBA association.

As of March 2017, MiMAP performance figures are impressive. It is working with 18 Microinsurance MBAs with a combined reach of about 4.79 million members nationwide, and insuring about 17.22 million Filipinos. The contributions collected (premiums) totalled Php 855.38 million. It has paid claims amounting to Php 243.73 million. And it has equity value of Php 5.92 billion.

These microinsurance MBAs provides life microinsurance plans and other optional life plans as well as health and retirement coverages. Rimansi is an observer member of

the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), joining it in 2007.

In 2008, Rimansi launched the Solvency, Efficiency, Governance, Understanding, Risk Management, Affordability, Development, Outreach (SEGURADO) performance standards as indicators to measure the performance of microinsurance MBAs.

One of the motivations in gathering the small MBAs into an association is the need to assist them in terms of their respective investment portfolio. Given their small capacity, they only tend to invest in low-yielding bank deposits and government securities. They are unable to develop expertise in the investment field. Moreover, several of these MBAs are located in the provinces where they have little or no access to high-yielding investments. Through the initiative of MiMAP, the available investment funds of these MBAs can be pooled and a more aggressive investment strategy can be formulated.

At present, the President of Rimansi is Ms. May Dawat. Its Executive Director is Jun Jay Perez.

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