



AIT
Asian Institute of Technology

(Linn Han only?)

STATEMENT BY ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TIMOR-LESTE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' MEETING
DILI, 7TH APRIL 2010

Your Excellency, Prime Minister of the Democratic republic of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmao, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Asian Institute of Technology would like to take this opportunity to, first of all, express its appreciation to the Government of Timor-Leste for organizing this important meeting, and to extend its good wishes for its successful completion.

During the last 15 months of building a partnership between the Government of Timor-Leste and AIT, we were privileged to witness the country's tremendous success in consolidating the process of sustainable economic development. While the rest of the world was reeling under the impacts of the global economic crisis, Timor-Leste's achievement of two-digit growth rates clearly reflects the country's successful transition from conflict to development. It is a pleasure for AIT to congratulate Timor-Leste and its people, to this triumph in realizing stability and sustainable development.

Building a sustainable future needs capacity. Government and civil society, local communities and the private sector – all need competencies to be the agents of the changes that are required to make the country's development sustainable. The Asian Institute of Technology is grateful to the Government of Timor-Leste for having this opportunity to participate in this important meeting that provides a great platform to further explore avenues for engaging in and initiating learning processes that enhance the country's capacities for sustainable development.

With a rapidly growing population, 80 percent of which lives in rural areas, investment in human capital that is linked to rural development, food-security and job creation will be a critical factor in ensuring the country's sustainable future.

In this, innovative and development-oriented 'Higher Education and Research' are crucial for building the knowledge and competency-base for the country's development. Higher education will lay the foundation for the country's future its ability to steer its course as a responsible and equal partner in a globalized world.

Promoting appropriate technological change and innovative approaches to address pressing issues such as sustainable development in the context of climate change and poverty alleviation are areas in which AIT is privileged to serve the Asian region through professional and academic higher educational programs, research and development.

With its multinational community of students, faculty, staff and network of more than 17.000 alumni, AIT offers a unique multi-cultural context for the building human capacity for sustainable development. AIT is looking forward to expanding its educational, research and development and capacity building services to Timor-Leste through designing programmes for capacity building that provide reflective bridges to sustainable action and contribute to the creation of a vibrant society that enjoys food-security, employment, income and security now and in the future.

With best wishes for a successful meeting.

Respectfully,

Said Irandoust
President,
Asian Institute of Technology