

Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting

April 7, 2010

The United States – Timor-Leste Partnership

United States assistance to Timor-Leste is focused on four objectives: strengthening institutions of democratic governance, improving the delivery of health services especially to mothers and young children, promoting economic growth, and ensuring stability and security. Examples of programs and results achieved in each of these areas since the last TLPDM follow.

Democratic Governance: The United States supports Timor-Leste's efforts to *combat corruption* by providing capacity building assistance to the Office of the Provedor and the Vice Prime Minister. In addition, we support *legal aid* organizations that provide *pro-bono* services to citizens in all 13 districts, especially to vulnerable groups such as women and children. U.S. assistance strengthens the *free press* in Timor-Leste, training 350 journalists in 2009 alone, nearly 43% who were women. We have supported the Timorese *National Parliament* by developing its research service capability and improving its IT services. U.S. *electoral assistance* programs supported the October 2009 Suco elections, by facilitating the first-ever Suco-level candidate debates and by training 1,501 district and sub-district coordinators.

Health: Joint health programs between the U.S. and the Ministry of Health have made significant improvements in the areas of *maternal and child health*, and *family planning* with an emphasis on reaching some of the most remote populations in Timor-Leste, including those in Oecussi. As a result, since 2004 in the areas where we have worked the number of women giving birth with a skilled birth attendant has doubled, and the number of women who reportedly use modern contraceptives has tripled. In 2009, a *water, sanitation and hygiene* program trained 683 district administrators and local NGO and rural community leaders to establish sustainable water infrastructure and community health systems for better water availability and use, prevent water borne diseases, and improve natural resource management.

Economic Growth: U.S. programs include *supporting Timorese farmers* producing high quality crops such as coffee, vanilla and fresh produce that are sold to markets in Dili and internationally. Cooperative Café Timor (CCT) organic coffee is now sold mostly to Starbucks. CCT has 23,000 members and during harvest time around 3,000 people find temporary employment with the organization. Total sales by CCT members reached over \$3 million in 2009. The U.S. also finances the *Ita Nia Rai* project to assist the Ministry of Justice in establishing *land and property rights* for Timorese citizens. Over 9,000 private land claims have already been recorded.

Stability and Security: The United States deepened its engagement with Timor-Leste towards the goal of strengthening regional security through a series of military-to-military engagements, including an exercise with the F-FDTL in October 2009 that included more than 2000 U.S. sailors and marines. Timor-Leste and the U.S. held the first-ever bilateral defense consultations in August 2009 to

provide greater structure and long-term planning to our bilateral military cooperation. The U.S. established a U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (Seabees) detachment in Dili that completed 23 community projects since April 2009 involving health clinics, schools, and water systems in over nine districts. These projects have benefited 105,000 community members, 17,000 students and 300 teachers. The Seabees worked with F-FDTL engineers on several of these projects. The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy Criminal Investigation Service provided the Timorese police and other agencies with training in skills ranging from basic maritime navigation to crime scene management. The U.S. supported a pilot program in Dili and Baucau to improve engagement between the PNTL and local communities, and to enhance their mutual understanding of key community policing principles and objectives.

Other Key Programs

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC): An MCC Threshold Program will soon provide significant assistance toward developing the capabilities of the Anti-Corruption Commission and other government programs designed to combat corruption. Another component of the Threshold Program will strengthen the Government of Timor-Leste's programs in childhood immunization.

Cultural Preservation and Higher Education: Other significant U.S. programs include support for the *preservation of Timorese culture*, including the rebuilding of *Uma Lulik* in Luatem, Ainaro, Bobonaro and Oecussi districts. We are also investing in *education* and have spent about \$5 million to send 50 Timorese students for university degree programs in the U.S. over the last 10 years. We intend to expand this long-standing commitment to provide additional educational