

Dear Reader,

It is with great satisfaction that I welcome you to the official website of the 2009 Timor-Leste and Development Partners' Meeting (TLDPM). The theme of this year's meeting was *'Goodbye Conflict – Welcome Development'*, a phrase which we, the 4th Constitutional Government of Timor-Leste, believe presents to both the community of nations and the citizens of Timor-Leste, our commitment to ensuring for our citizenry a prosperous, peaceful nation.

The TLDPM is an annual conference attended by the Government of Timor-Leste and Development Partners operating in Timor-Leste who convene to reflect upon previous development successes and challenges while at the same time considering future strategic strengthening and alignment of development initiatives being undertaken in Timor-Leste. The TLDPM draws strongly upon the belief enshrined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness that the building of more effective and inclusive partnerships between Government and development partners will contribute to a greater impact on reducing poverty, and thus, ensure a more positive future for the people of Timor-Leste.

Since December 2002, the TLDPM has sought to highlight the significance of forging development partnerships among bilateral and multilateral donors and other key development stakeholders, including civil society, operating in this country. In 2009 civil society were again encouraged to participate and convey their unique development experiences. Participants heard voices representing the aims of youth, academia and for the first time, that of the private sector, a voice that will no doubt become stronger as Timor-Leste's economy continues to strengthen and expand.

And so, in the spirit of transparency, the Government of Timor-Leste wishes to make available as much documentation regarding this meeting as possible. In this site you will find speeches, presentations, press releases and other official documents and publications issued by the Government and other participants in the lead-up and during the meeting.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all those who attended the most recent Timor-Leste Development Partners meeting, not just for their participation but for their perseverance - for their commitment and shared resolve in ensuring that the hopes and dreams of this country's citizenry can be realized.

Thank you.

Emilia Pires
Minister of Finance
May 25, 2009