



DEVELOPMENT MILESTONE ACHIEVED

The opening of the Judicial Training Centre marks an important milestone in the development of the Justice System in Timor-Leste

*07 September, 2004
Dili, Timor-Leste*

The opening of the Justice Training Centre on 07 September, 2004 marks an important milestone in the development of the Justice Sector in this young nation.

In his address at the opening ceremony the Special Representative of the Secretary General and UNDP Resident Representative, Sukehiro Hasegawa, commended the opening.

“The establishment of the National Judicial Training Centre is another significant and commendable step on the part of the Council of Coordination of the judicial system. The formal opening of the National Judicial Training Centre signifies a move forward for the national justice system from the total devastation from five years ago.” said Mr Sukehiro Hasegawa, UNDP’s Resident Representative.

“I am most pleased to witness such positive progress in the programme to establish a permanent national judicial system serving all citizens across the districts of the nation as part of the concerted national efforts towards the sustainable human development of Timor-Leste.” he added.

The Judicial Training Centre is the institution tasked with providing *standardized, compulsory, post-graduate, professional* training of lawyers as a condition for appointment to the important positions of judges, prosecutors and public defenders. It will ensure uniform standards and quality control.

The first class of 61 students, including 48 lawyers who presently serve as probationary judges, prosecutors and public defenders and 13 lawyers who presently serve in other state institutions or in private function, have embarked on a 2 ½-year training programme. This will result in the first round of permanent appointments to the justice system institutions.

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