Ireland donates to Institutional Capacity Development Support Project

02 December, 2004/ Dili
Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI) again demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting the human rights and local governance in Timor-Leste today, announcing additional support of 180,000 Euros and US$43,000 (approximately US$250,000) to the UNDP Institutional Capacity Development Support Project.

The agreement brings Ireland's total contribution to the project to more than US$2 million over the last two years, and was signed at an informal meeting between the Irish Chargé d'Affaires and Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI) Representative, Ms Carol Hannon, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General and UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Sukehiro Hasegawa at Obrigado Barracks.

"A major component of Development Cooperation Ireland's programme in Timor-Leste is capacity building in Government. DCI also has specific interests in the areas of Gender, Human Rights, and Governance, especially Local Government, and therefore we chose to fund specific positions in these areas. In addition to the Institutional Capacity Development Support Project, we are supporting other initiatives in these areas, both through UNDP, bilaterally with government and through Civil Society Organisations."

In the area of Human Rights, this contribution will support the Office for the Promotion of Equality, the Human Rights office, and the Commission for the Reception Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR). In the area of local governance, it will support a local governance advisor for Dili District Administration.

Dr. Hasegawa reiterated the importance of this kind of support to Capacity Building as a continuation of the Peace building process in Timor-Leste.

"We are very pleased with Ireland's continuous support to UNDP's efforts to assist the Timorese state institutions with their institutional capacity development efforts. This development partner support is becoming vitally important as UNMISET's mandate is drawing to a close in 2005." He said.

For more information please contact:
Kym Smithies, UNDP Media Officer on +670 724 4987 or kym.smithies@undp.org