

# PRESS RELEASE



Timor-Leste

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UNDERWAY IN OECUSSI OECUSSI-AMBENO COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (OCAP) INCEPTION WORKSHOP HELD ON 11 MAY 2005**

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The Oecussi-Ambeno Community Activation Programme (OCAP) works with selected local communities to restore sustainable livelihood opportunities to the people of Oecussi. The Inception Workshop, held on the 11 May 2005, aims to inform the participants and other development partners about what are OCAP's objectives, what is the strategy to achieve them and how the programme works with communities.

The OCAP programme aims at contributing to the National Development Plan's overriding goal of poverty reduction through the restoration of sustainable livelihood opportunities for the residents of Oecussi district. This objective will be achieved through empowering the local communities to identify their own needs and to plan and implement development activities. OCAP will also assist the communities with the development of new skills and knowledge to increase food security and to generate supplementary income.

The workshop will take place at the District Administration Office in Oecussi and will be attended by the SRSG/ UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Sukehiro Hasegawa, The Minister for Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Estanislau da Silva, Vice-Minister of Development and Environment, Mr. Abel Ximenes, and other government representatives. Mr. Guglielmo Colombo, Representative of the European Commission, representatives from other UN Agencies and NGOs and the officially elected Suco Chiefs and Community Elders of Oecussi will also participate.

Dr Hasegawa, attending the ceremony said, "Real development can't take place at the community level without true local involvement and ownership. OCAP is tackling problems in the communities by first finding out what the real problems they have to deal with are".

The five-year programme is funded by the European Commission with contributions from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is being implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in partnership with UNDP, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Development and Environment, and in close consultation with the Ministry of State Administration.

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