

PRESS RELEASE



Timor-Leste

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STILL A PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS **Australia contributes more to UNDP Institutional Capacity Development Support Programme**

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Transferring skills and knowledge to the state institutions is critical to the process of development in Timor-Leste. Recognizing this, development partners are continuing to support the process through the Institutional Capacity Development Support (ICDS) programme, which is working with the government, President's Office, Parliament and the Judiciary by providing mentors and advisors in support of their efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

Australia has today announced a further contribution of US\$619,000 to fund five positions in various state institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Justice, the Secretariat of State for the Council of Ministers and the Banking and Payments authority. This brings Australia's contribution to this project to more than US\$1 million.

Australia's Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Margaret Twomey, signed Australia's increased commitment to the program. "Our overall aid program to Timor-Leste is around US\$32 million per year. Helping the Government build its capacity to run the country well is our primary focus and we are pleased to cooperate with the UNDP on this program. Each of these positions we are committing to today has been identified by the Timor-Leste Government as essential for the development of the country. I'm sure they will make a big difference. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing will be better able to conduct the economic analysis it needs to direct its programs. The Office of the President will get the advice it has been asking for on legal and policy matters."

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) worked closely with the Capacity Development Coordination Unit (CDCU) and the former UN mission (UNMISSET) to identify the 118 'critical' advisor positions funded through this programme. At this stage there are 56 advisors working in a variety of roles throughout the state institutions of Timor-Leste, 11 advisor positions have been completed, and there are 6 under recruitment. Remaining positions will be filled as funding is identified.

The UNDP Resident Co-ordinator and SRSG Dr Sukehiro Hasegawa welcomed this new contribution. "The importance of continuing to strengthen the government and state institutions through investing in development of national staff cannot be underestimated. To continue to strengthen peace and stability in the coming years, it is crucial that national state institutions receive all the support they need to function effectively and to meet the needs

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

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of the people of Timor-Leste. I thank Australia for their continuing commitment to this process through support to this UNDP Programme." Said Dr Hasegawa

The programme is funded by a large number of development partners, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and UNDP.

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