



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

11 October 2013

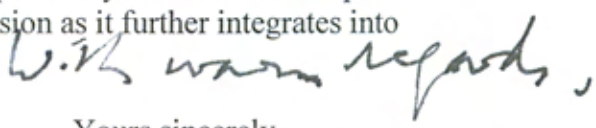
  
Dear Mrs. Heyzer,

I appreciate receiving your report on the activities undertaken as the Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Timor-Leste. The Secretary-General and I are pleased to note that the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste has welcomed your appointment and that the implementation plan has been developed in consultation with the Government.

Your situation analysis highlights the development and peace and security challenges facing Timor Leste. As I have mentioned on several occasions, development, peace, human rights and rule of law are inextricably linked. The challenges facing Timor Leste – youth employment, governance and institution-building, macroeconomic policies, food security, rural agricultural development, natural resource management – can only be addressed by tackling these issues comprehensively and with the engagement of all partners.

Therefore, it is encouraging to hear that you and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific are working closely with the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team in Timor Leste as well as various partners working on the ground, to continue making progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. I am also glad that you have been working with the High Commissioner for Human Rights to address the situation involving asylum seekers from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

I look forward to receiving periodic reports of your work as the Special Advisor to assist the country in realizing its vision as it further integrates into the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

  
Yours sincerely,

  
Jan Eliasson

Mrs. Noeleen Heyzer  
Executive Secretary  
Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2013

EOSG/CENTRAL

13\_09090

POL/OH/006

**Note to the Deputy Secretary-General**



A letter from Mrs. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP

1. Mrs. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, recently wrote to the Deputy Secretary-General to share the report on the activities undertaken as the Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Timor-Leste.
2. A draft reply for the Deputy Secretary-General's signature has been prepared and is enclosed for your approval.
3. Thank you for your kind consideration.



Deirdre Boyd  
9 October 2013

13-09090

**Received in ODSG**

10 October 2013

**Seen by:** 

10 October 2013

----- Forwarded by Paul Akiwumi/NY/UNO on 07/10/2013 08:16 AM -----

From: Jan Eliasson/NY/UNO  
To: Paul Akiwumi/NY/UNO, rolando@un.org,  
Cc: "Tasa Delenda" <delendaa@un.org>  
Date: 05/10/2013 09:42 AM  
Subject: Fw: SASG Report to the Secretary-General

Thank-you letter, pls. JE

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Jan Eliasson  
**Sent:** 10/04/2013 11:04 AM EDT  
**To:** SGCentral  
**Subject:** Fw: SASG Report to the Secretary-General

For logging pls.

Thank you,  
tasa

----- Forwarded by Anastasiya Delenda/NY/UNO on 04/10/2013 11:04 AM -----

From: Noeleen Heyzer/BKK/UNO@ESCAP  
To: Jan Eliasson/NY/UNO@UNHQ,  
Date: 04/10/2013 08:47 AM  
Subject: SASG Report to the Secretary-General

Dear Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,

Please find enclosed my report for submission to the Secretary-General covering the first three months in my role as Special Advisor on Timor Leste. If you would also have an opportunity to review the report, I would very much appreciate your comments and guidance on the activities I have undertaken so far and propose to accomplish as outlined in the implementation plan.

With warm regards,  
Noeleen

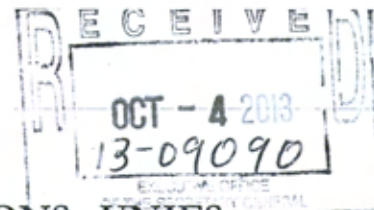
**Noeleen Heyzer**  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations ESCAP  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
Tel: (+66 2) 288-1910  
Fax: (+66 2) 288-1051  
[heyzer@un.org](mailto:heyzer@un.org)

[attachment "TL- Report to the Secretary-General.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO]

ANNEX I Timor Leste Development Partnership Meeting, 18-20 June 2013	[attachment "20130619 Dr Heyzer Timor-Leste DevPartners As Delivered.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "President speech- DPM 19Jun2013en.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "PM speech- DPM June 2013.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "Straitstimes.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "The Doctor's Master Plan-INDEPENDENTE.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "Strait Times by Nirmal-with pic-Singaporean seeks to hel...pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO]
ANNEX II Implementation Plan	[attachment "1. Implementation Plan-ToR SASG.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "Extraordinary-Meeting-of-the-Council-of-Ministers-on-August-31-2013.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO]
ANNEX III SASG Speech at TL-IMF Harnessing Natural Resources Meeting, 17-19 September	<b>[attachment "20130918 Dr Heyzer IMF TimorLeste Resource Wealth.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO]</b>
ANNEX IV Myanmar news coverage of 13 September 2013 visit of PM Gusmao to Myanmar	<b>[attachment "2013-09-14 07-50 page #0.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "2013-09-14 07-53.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO]</b>
ANNEX V HAK and High Commissioner letters	[attachment "Letter to Dr Noeleen Heyzer.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO] [attachment "Letter from HC to the Ambassador of Timor.pdf" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO]
ANNEX VI Situation Analysis	[attachment "TL - Situation Analysis.doc" deleted by Masumi Ono/NY/UNO]



ACTION AG → DU  
COPY SSG → DU



UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel: (+66 2) 2881910 • Fax: (+66 2) 2881051

Email: oes.unescap@un.org • Website: www.unescap.org

OES/A/11

4 October 2013

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Special Advisor for Timor-Leste (SASG) and to report to you the highlights of my activities over the last three months.

*Development Partnership Meeting*

Shortly after your announcement, I attended the annual Timor-Leste Development Partnership Meeting (TLDPM) in Dili, 18-19 June 2013, on "Operationalizing the Strategic Development Plan for Effective Results". Both President Taur Matan Ruak and Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao enthusiastically thanked you and recognized your appointment in their opening statements.

I delivered a keynote speech outlining the development challenges Timor-Leste faces: high youth unemployment, increasing poverty in rural areas and the need for inclusive growth and job generation. The speech identified opportunities to move from fragility to resilience by investing in MDG's, especially in education and health and by prioritizing the rural community and sustainable agriculture. There is need to diversify the petroleum dependent economy and use the Petroleum Fund to build economic and social foundations to provide productive jobs, especially for youth and to invest in the development of human talent and institutions for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The remarks were highly appreciated and well received by the government and its development partners and enjoyed wide media coverage, also since the TLDPM was broadcast live on national television. For your reference, the President's, Prime Minister's and my speeches are attached in **Annex I**.

*Implementation Plan*

During the past year, I have built a strong relationship with Prime Minister Gusmao and members of his cabinet and have achieved a level of trust that allowed me to review the SASG Terms of Reference (TOR) and means of implementation in consultation directly with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has in turn consulted with his Council of Ministers and I am pleased to enclose as **Annex II** the resulting SASG implementation plan.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

POL/04/006

ER → PV?  
Yes & A → DU  
Thx!

1...

I have also undertaken close consultation with the Timor-Leste Resident Coordinator, Mr. Knut Ostby, and the UN Country Team. As a result, ESCAP is participating in and is fully engaged with the UNDAF process. The RC and I have agreed on modalities of regular engagement with him and the UNCT, which are described in the SASG Implementation Plan (Annex II).

#### *ESCAP Engagement*

In order to support Timor-Leste as a member State and my role as SASG, I established a task force on Timor-Leste in ESCAP. A program of work has been developed based on the TOR paragraphs that refer to ESCAP and on ESCAP's areas of competitive advantage. This program has been designed in consultation with the Prime Minister, his senior ministers, officials and advisors to identify where ESCAP could best add value and assist with the country's priority needs. The areas identified include regional connectivity to ASEAN by focusing on SME development, trade and investment facilitation, ICT development, macroeconomic policy, statistics and food security.

#### *IMF*

Based on my keynote address at the Development Partnership Meeting, I was invited by the IMF to deliver keynote remarks at the conference on "Harnessing Natural Resource Wealth for Inclusive Growth and Economic Development" that IMF co-hosted with the government 17-19 September. The speech on "Investing for a Dynamic and Inclusive Timor-Leste" covered a sensitive topic as it referred to use of the Petroleum Fund, but was highly welcomed and praised by the conference participants. In fact, the speech was described as, "bold, encouraging and example-inspiring". For your reference my speech is attached as Annex III.

#### *Promoting Timor-Leste on the regional and global scene*

I have also been pleased in this short time to contribute to Timor-Leste's stronger integration with the region. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao was elected as Chair of the 69<sup>th</sup> Commission session in April 2013 and serves proudly as the Chair. In fact, he has mentioned his role as Chair for the ESCAP commission as an honor for Timor-Leste in almost all of his speeches since his election.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance fully engaged in the "Asia Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015" co hosted by the government of Thailand and ESCAP in Bangkok, 26-28 August 2013. The Bangkok Declaration, the intergovernmental outcome document of this meeting, provided the Asia Pacific perspective on sustainable development and the post 2015 development agenda. It was the region's contribution to the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly discussion on the subject.

Also noteworthy, is Timor Leste participation in the Sixth Asia and Pacific Population Conference, which took place in Bangkok 16-20 September. Represented by a large delegation which included MP members of the Asian Forum of Population and Development, Timor Leste's strong support for proposals to establish and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights for vulnerable populations in the region was well recognized.



ACTION

AG

COPY

DSG



UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel: (+66 2) 2881910 • Fax: (+66 2) 2881051

Email: oes.unescap@un.org • Website: www.unescap.org

OES/A/11

4 October 2013

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Special Advisor for Timor-Leste (SASG) and to report to you the highlights of my activities over the last three months.

*Development Partnership Meeting*

Shortly after your announcement, I attended the annual Timor-Leste Development Partnership Meeting (TLDPM) in Dili, 18-19 June 2013, on "Operationalizing the Strategic Development Plan for Effective Results". Both President Taur Matan Ruak and Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao enthusiastically thanked you and recognized your appointment in their opening statements.

I delivered a keynote speech outlining the development challenges Timor-Leste faces: high youth unemployment, increasing poverty in rural areas and the need for inclusive growth and job generation. The speech identified opportunities to move from fragility to resilience by investing in MDG's, especially in education and health and by prioritizing the rural community and sustainable agriculture. There is need to diversify the petroleum dependent economy and use the Petroleum Fund to build economic and social foundations to provide productive jobs, especially for youth and to invest in the development of human talent and institutions for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The remarks were highly appreciated and well received by the government and its development partners and enjoyed wide media coverage, also since the TLDPM was broadcast live on national television. For your reference, the President's, Prime Minister's and my speeches are attached in Annex I.

*Implementation Plan*

During the past year, I have built a strong relationship with Prime Minister Gusmao and members of his cabinet and have achieved a level of trust that allowed me to review the SASG Terms of Reference (TOR) and means of implementation in consultation directly with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has in turn consulted with his Council of Ministers and I am pleased to enclose as Annex II the resulting SASG implementation plan.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

POL/04/006



I have also undertaken close consultation with the Timor-Leste Resident Coordinator, Mr. Knut Ostby, and the UN Country Team. As a result, ESCAP is participating in and is fully engaged with the UNDAF process. The RC and I have agreed on modalities of regular engagement with him and the UNCT, which are described in the SASG Implementation Plan (Annex II).

### *ESCAP Engagement*

In order to support Timor-Leste as a member State and my role as SASG, I established a task force on Timor-Leste in ESCAP. A program of work has been developed based on the TOR paragraphs that refer to ESCAP and on ESCAP's areas of competitive advantage. This program has been designed in consultation with the Prime Minister, his senior ministers, officials and advisors to identify where ESCAP could best add value and assist with the country's priority needs. The areas identified include regional connectivity to ASEAN by focusing on SME development, trade and investment facilitation, ICT development, macroeconomic policy, statistics and food security.

### *IMF*

Based on my keynote address at the Development Partnership Meeting, I was invited by the IMF to deliver keynote remarks at the conference on "Harnessing Natural Resource Wealth for Inclusive Growth and Economic Development" that IMF co-hosted with the government 17-19 September. The speech on "Investing for a Dynamic and Inclusive Timor-Leste" covered a sensitive topic as it referred to use of the Petroleum Fund, but was highly welcomed and praised by the conference participants. In fact, the speech was described as, "bold, encouraging and example-inspiring". For your reference my speech is attached as Annex III.

### *Promoting Timor-Leste on the regional and global scene*

I have also been pleased in this short time to contribute to Timor-Leste's stronger integration with the region. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao was elected as Chair of the 69<sup>th</sup> Commission session in April 2013 and serves proudly as the Chair. In fact, he has mentioned his role as Chair for the ESCAP commission as an honor for Timor-Leste in almost all of his speeches since his election.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance fully engaged in the "Asia Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015" co hosted by the government of Thailand and ESCAP in Bangkok, 26-28 August 2013. The Bangkok Declaration, the intergovernmental outcome document of this meeting, provided the Asia Pacific perspective on sustainable development and the post 2015 development agenda. It was the region's contribution to the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly discussion on the subject.

Also noteworthy, is Timor Leste participation in the Sixth Asia and Pacific Population Conference, which took place in Bangkok 16-20 September. Represented by a large delegation which included MP members of the Asian Forum of Population and Development, Timor Leste's strong support for proposals to establish and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights for vulnerable populations in the region was well recognized.



I was able to arrange for Prime Minister Gusmao and members of his cabinet to meet with President U Thein Sein and members of his cabinet during the 69<sup>th</sup> Commission Session in April 2013. This meeting was extremely important for both sides. Timor-Leste was able to link with the ASEAN Chair for 2014 and Myanmar had an opportunity to expand its understanding of harnessing natural wealth for inclusive development by exposure to the use of a petroleum fund in support of development. Prime Minister Gusmao was received with highest honors when he later visited Myanmar and a team from Myanmar has since visited Timor-Leste. For your reference media coverage of the visit is included in Annex IV.

#### *g7+ leadership role*

In his travels throughout the region, the Prime Minister regularly refers to the Dili Consensus, which was the outcome of an international conference in Dili in February 2013 heavily supported by ESCAP. The Prime Minister sees this conference as the largest and most important meeting convened in recent times as it re-affirms Timor-Leste's role as leader of the g7+. I was pleased to be a strong partner in shaping an agenda that allowed Timor-Leste to reach consensus with the other g7+ countries and in shifting the discussion from fragility to resilience.

#### *Partnerships*

I have been working on creating several key partnerships in order to deliver specific initiatives during my three months as SASG.

1. FAO, the Thai Government, ESCAP and Oxfam would like to support the implementation of the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge campaign in Timor-Leste, which the Prime Minister launched at the 69<sup>th</sup> Commission session. The RC and UNCT have expressed deep interest to platform this as a major UN event in the coming year led by the SASG. I have invited the Director General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva, to participate as a major guest.

2. I have also begun to mobilize regional assets to promote good development practices. For example, Thailand has been encouraged to engage with Timor-Leste in the areas of agricultural productivity and food security due to its expertise in organic farming and experience with the King's sufficiency economy model and has already sent a team to Timor-Leste to discuss collaboration. The Republic of Korea has responded positively to the opportunity to share lessons learned in Public Private Partnerships (PPP), which is of particular interest to Timor-Leste in the development of its ports and infrastructure. I have also identified major private sector partners committed to sustainable business practices that are ready to work with the government on developing a sustainable tourism masterplan.

#### *Distinguished Development Leaders Dialogue*

The Prime Minister has asked me to establish a Distinguished Development Leaders Dialogue series (DDLD) to bring top practitioners to Timor-Leste to share good development and governance practices to support his strategy of strengthening accountable institutions, building the developmental State, and improving governance. I envision doing this together with him along the lines of the development forums that I successfully initiated in Myanmar 2009 to catalyze the government's reform agenda.

## Civil Society

I have yet to consult with civil society, but have already received requests for support from them. For example a prominent member of the women's movement and a member of the CEDAW committee has been in touch with these words, "I believe your role <SASG> can make a difference...we need experience and know how to develop as a nation, but above all I think you need a heart to be able to have development that place emphasis on people and that means always evaluating the impact on the poorest of the poor."

I am also getting regular inputs from experts doing the assessment of the Oecusse Special Economic Social Market Zone, especially from the gender equality and women's empowerment dimension. Development of this special economic zone is headed by Dr. Mari Alkatiri, leader of the opposition.

I also received a letter from HAK, a group comprised of 14 non governmental organizations in Timor-Leste concerned with human rights, on its concerns related to a group of Rohingya asylum seekers, who appeared to have been forcibly removed from Timor-Leste without having had their claims for asylum heard and asking the UN to request clarification from the government. I forwarded the letter and related documents to High Commissioner Pillay, USG Jeffrey Feltman and the Deputy-Secretary General. The letter from HAK to the SASG and ensuing letter from the High Commissioner to the government are attached as Annex V for your reference.

Finally I have included a short situational analysis of the country for your quick reference as Annex VI.

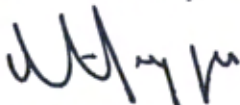
Mr. Secretary General, there are a number of issues which need to be considered and decided upon in consultation with your office, including reporting expectations and the allocation of human and financial resources. I refer to these in the attached implementation plan.

Permit me to end this first report to you by repeating my profound thanks for the opportunity to act as your Special Advisor on Timor Leste. I will do my best to fulfill your expectations and make you proud.

With warm regards,

I remain,  
Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Yours sincerely,



Noeleen Heyzer  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and  
Executive Secretary of ESCAP  
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General  
of the United Nations for Timor-Leste





Ver: Final

**Speech as Delivered by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer,  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Secretary of  
the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and Special Advisor of  
the United Nations Secretary-General for Timor-Leste**

**2013 Timor-Leste & Development Partners Meeting  
Dili, Timor-Leste, 19 June 2013**

Your Excellency, Taur Matan Ruak,  
President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Your Excellency, Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão,  
Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Your Excellency, Mr. José Luis Guterres,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Your Excellency, Ms. Emília Pires,  
Minister of Finance

Excellencies,  
Development Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Introduction**

It is my great honor, privilege, and pleasure to address you in my new role as Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General for Timor-Leste. It is a responsibility which I accept with total commitment and humility.

Let me begin by first thanking the Secretary-General for this appointment and for his trust. He remembers, with affection, his historic visit to Timor-Leste last year.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude and thanks to His Excellency, the President, His Excellency, the Prime Minister, and to the people of Timor-Leste, for embracing me so warmly – and to all of you for welcoming me on the occasion of this important meeting.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

### **Timor-Leste's Exceptional Development Journey**

This is my first address in my new capacity, and a time for me to listen and to learn. I am very pleased to have had the opportunity this morning to listen carefully to the vision articulated by His Excellency, the President and His Excellency, the Prime Minister. I would like to share three initial thoughts today.

The first is that Timor-Leste is a success story for our region and for the world. Yours is a country of great courage, with a determined people who have sacrificed so much to change and shape your own destiny.

The United Nations and our development partners are proud to have helped facilitate your journey from conflict and fragility towards peace, democracy, resilience, and sustainable development.

In spite of being one of the youngest nations, you have, in only a decade, risen from the ashes of conflict and laid the basic foundations for peace and security, for trust and confidence-building, and for institutions supporting democratic governance.

Your decade-long experience of advances and temporary set-backs has underscored that, in order to sustain this remarkable progress and to achieve the next milestones on this development journey, it is particularly important to consolidate and further invest in three specific elements, as you proceed towards building a stronger and more resilient nation. These are: inclusive development and engagement; institution-building anchored in social justice and the rule of law; and sustained partnership and appropriate bilateral and multilateral support to implement the Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.

As we focus on this nationally-owned and nationally-driven plan at this implementation meeting, and given the magnitude of the task that still remains to sustain the gains already made by this young nation, I call on all our development partners to prioritize support for Timor-Leste's development objectives. With the proper support, Timor-Leste's journey towards sustainable peace, democracy, and development can be an inspirational example for all.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

#### **Priorities to Advance Timorese Development**

The second issue on which I would like to focus is the need for more inclusive economic growth and job generation. To promote inclusive development, social cohesion, and shared prosperity, we need to further focus and invest in the areas where vulnerable people live and where they work, as well as in the skills and assets which they possess. We need to support them through mechanisms such as financial inclusion, whilst reducing the prices of the essential goods and services which they consume.

This means strengthening investment and support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Timor-Leste, especially in the areas of housing; water and sanitation; health and nutrition; quality education; women's equality and empowerment; as well as in the physical and social infrastructure for rural areas to be better able to access markets and development services. I know that the United Nations Country Team and our development partners are already supporting these priorities, and I look forward to learning how I may facilitate their work in these areas, in close collaboration with the Timorese government and civil society.

With 75 per cent of the Timorese population living in rural areas, we must particularly prioritize the needs of rural communities and agricultural development, with a special focus on rural women. It will also be critical to invest in the productivity and value-addition of agribusiness, as well as small and medium size businesses (SMEs), in rural infrastructure and in food security. We need to generate increased employment and job opportunities, so that more people, including youth, can engage in jobs and productively contribute to the achievements of the country. In this connection, it is also important to support basic vocational skills development, so that more Timorese communities can take advantage of the construction and infrastructure agenda of the country.



At the same time, as mentioned earlier, we need to invest in the youth – in both urban and rural areas. Timor-Leste has one of Asia's youngest populations, with 70 per cent under the age of 30. This means generating employment and jobs that can utilize and capitalize on the creative energy of the young, thereby unlocking a potential of the country.

Productive, quality jobs, that can provide income security and assets for people, require investment in the building of human capabilities for development – for the economies of the future that can deliver better lives for all. In other words, investing in long-term sustainable and inclusive development.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

### **Sustainable Resource Use**

The third issue which I would like to address is that of sustainable resource use, and converting natural resources into development assets.

Timor-Leste is one of the most petroleum-reliant nations in our region, but at the same time financial revenues from the oil reserves in the Timor Sea have grown from US\$1.8 billion in 2007 to US\$13 billion this year. By wisely establishing systems to use these funds to support development across generations, the Government has done much already to secure future growth. Combined with high global fuel prices and public expenditure, we have seen strong annual economic growth averaging about 11 per cent. However the rising inflation which has also emerged is a risk that must be managed.

Timor-Leste still lacks a functioning productive sector that can supply enough basic inputs, and the imports of goods and services have therefore continued to grow. This is occurring concurrently with persistent unemployment.

These are large challenges, but they also present opportunities to further strengthen and build durable economic foundations that diversify the economic base, and to target sectors such as agri-business, fisheries, tourism, and petrochemicals that can generate increased employment and also substitute for some of the imported goods – especially in the area of food security.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, despite being one of the youngest nations, Timor-Leste has already contributed to regional and global development.

As the Chair of the g7+, you have championed peace-building and state-building not only in your own country but in fragile states around the world.

As observers in the Pacific Islands Forum, and organizers of the Pacific Consultation on post-2015 development, in Dili this year (as part of the Development for All Conference), you have deepened your relationship with the Pacific island nations, supporting ocean economies, and their call for more people- and climate-centered development.

With Minster Pires as a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, you have made sure that the voices of fragile states are heard through the Dili Consensus and that nobody will be left behind.

With His Excellency the Prime Minister as this year's Chair of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, of 62 countries, he will be working with us to shape a resilient Asia-Pacific that is more inclusive and sustainable. In this role, he also helped to launch our Asia-Pacific regional campaign for Zero Hunger, together with the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, and the Executive Secretaries of the other UN Regional Commissions.

Simply put, Timor-Leste is already a valuable part of the fabric of South-East Asia – standing at the crossroads between Asia and the Pacific. In the next phase of its development journey, it will be even more important for Timor-Leste to get as much sustained support as possible, from our region and beyond, to help ensure its continued contributions to regional and global development.

I see my role as helping to bring the region's expertise, assets, and assistance to the country, which will be important to support Timor-Leste's application for membership in ASEAN, and to help promote a better understanding of the needs and opportunities of Timor-Leste as it seeks to further integrate into this dynamic region.

It is commendable to see the efforts being made by Timor-Leste to work towards closer cooperation with its regional neighbors, to help shape the future of shared regional prosperity, based on social equity and sustainability. I am ready to do all that I can to mobilize resources and talents from the region, including the private sector, from the UN and our development partners, to support this development journey.

While humbly sharing these thoughts, I am primarily here at this meeting to listen, to learn, and to hear your views on how my role can add value to the country and the people of Timor-Leste, in this development phase of its transformation.

Together we can forge an alliance that can seize the opportunities of growing together towards a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable region.

I thank you.



**SPEECH BY H.E. PRESIDENT TAUR MATAN RUAK**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING SESSION**  
**OF THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MEETING**

*Dili, 19 June 2013*

---

Excellencies, dear friends:

It is an honour to welcome you to Timor-Leste. I welcome you most warmly, on my behalf and on behalf of the Timorese people, whose aspirations and interests are what bring us together here today.

The topic of this year's meeting – Operationalising the Strategic Development Plan for more effective results – is particularly suitable and timely.

In fact, following the elections and other developments over the past year, our country has entered a new development phase. The Timorese reaffirmed, most emphatically, their desire for stability and peace. We held free and peaceful elections, with a high participation rate. The National Parliament's democratic legitimacy was refreshed, a new president was elected and a new government took office based on the electoral results.

These developments were only made possible by the maturity of the Timorese people and their leaders, by Timor-Leste's partnership with the United Nations and by the strengthening of our trust-based working relations with our Development partners.

The work developed with the United Nations entirely met its objectives and was unanimously considered a success by the international community.

The Timorese people's determination and their leaders' vision have forged a broad social consensus on national priorities, thus creating better conditions for a new and decisive drive towards economic and social development.

I am aware of the great challenges still facing us. Our society is becoming increasingly aware of them, also. However, Timor-Leste now has mature and solid institutions by facing and solving the challenges arising from our recent history.

The country also has the resources to look for the solutions to future challenges.

And we have the good fortune of having developed strong friendships and working relations with all of you, our development partners. That cooperation and the common experience are particularly valuable to us. I believe we have reason to look to the future with optimism.

It is pleasing to see the Millennium Development Goals embodied in our common methodology. Although the results of those goals may not be fully met in many countries, including Timor-Leste, it won't keep us from making further progress towards their achievement by 2015.

I also salute the g7+ group's agreement on a New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The agreement represents an important contribution and a greater joint responsibility of the recipient countries in their own Development process.

Our country's participation in the g7+, over which Timor-Leste has the honour of currently presiding, brings with it new responsibilities. Timor-Leste and the g7+ are privileged that

our Minister of Finance, Dr Emilia Pires is on the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Agenda which was created under the auspices of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia.

These responsibilities will translate into new trust-based relations between our country and the international community, especially following the intense partnership and cooperation with the United Nations and the Development Partners over the last six years.

However, they also serve as proof of our determination to overcome the initial phase of institutional consolidation and to open a new chapter in the relatively short history of the Timorese State – the Development chapter.

I welcome the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General, Mrs Noellen Heyzer, as the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's special advisor for Timor-Leste. Mrs Heizer knows our country. Her active role in liaising between national players and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations team with us will certainly contribute towards deepening our partnership with the United Nations and assisting it to adjust to our new realities. Her new role will also surely contribute towards deepening regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, given her further responsibilities as Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific -- ESCAP.

This appointment is very positive and innovative for following up Development processes. I believe that it is in accordance with our country's objectives of strengthening regional and international integration. I am pleased for this innovation to remain linked to our relationship with the United Nations.

Excellencies. Friends.

The fight against poverty involves improving the quality of our public services and is dependent on the Public Administration's ability to adapt to the development goals.

Timor-Leste's State as a whole, including its diplomacy, is called on to find new solutions to old problems and to adjust itself to our emerging needs ranging from the quality of the Education and Health sectors, public works inspections and public procurement, to diplomacy. As far as external relations are concerned, in particular, our diplomats have to increasingly incorporate into their activity the priorities and objectives of economic diplomacy, thus contributing towards answering the country's need to attract investments and make progress in terms of its international economic integration.

The vision regarding Timor-Leste's development is summarized in our Strategic Development Plan, which is the topic of this meeting.

Its implementation poses significant challenges.

I am certain that this meeting will make important contributions towards helping us overcome these new challenges as well.

The strengthening of the joint work with our Development Partners is the key to quickly achieving our goals.

I offer you my best wishes for an exciting and productive debate, and for a pleasant stay in Timor-Leste.

Thank you all.





**P R I M E  
M I N I S T E R**

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE  
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO ON “STATE BUILDING FOR THE NEXT  
DECADE: A REFLECTION ON TIMOR-LESTE’S EXPERIENCES AND  
EXPECTATIONS IN STATE BUILDING”  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING SESSION OF THE  
2013 TIMOR-LESTE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MEETING**

**DILI, TIMOR-LESTE**

**19 June 2013**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honour and pleasure that Timor-Leste welcomes once again the meeting of our development partners. This annual meeting is now part of Timor-Leste's history and provides an overview of the path we have taken since achieving our independence.

Once again partners and friends from different parts of the world have come to discuss and evaluate with us our challenges, our plans and our vision for the future.

I am also delighted to welcome Dr Heyzer who has been appointed by the United Nations Secretary General as the non-resident Special Adviser to Timor-Leste and who will support our country in its efforts towards peace building and State building and sustainable development.

I am also pleased to be able to work with Dr Heyzer in chairing the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific. During this year in this role we have the the privilege of working with ESCAP, and the nations of the Asia Pacific, to make further regional progress and improve human development.

Thank you very much to all of you for being here and particularly for your dedication to the development of Timor-Leste.

I would like to invite you to reflect on 'State building'. Timor-Leste persists with the concept of 'State building' because, even if still young, we understand that throughout the world there are States with over half a century of existence that are also considered to be fragile States.

We are still witnessing major social and political shocks that put into question the legitimacy of States, such as in the Middle East (Iraq, Afghanistan and now Syria) and in North Africa (Tunisia, Libya and Egypt).

Everyone knows that Timor-Leste is one of 49 least development countries, and also one of 35 fragile and conflict affected.

What is the difference between those fragile States, some of which are even considered to be failed States, and States (like Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria) where international interventions to support democratisation and human rights has contributed,

or is contributing to, the destruction of these countries, in their social fabric, their infrastructure and even their viability as a State.

The news from the G8 Summit in Northern Ireland, that concluded yesterday, brought some hope that world leaders are finally trying to find solutions through dialogue and with the involvement of all sides.

---

But, how are we to look at the major social (and political) problems in countries such as Portugal, Spain, Cyprus and perhaps even France and Italy?

Is Greece a failed State, since even the public broadcaster has been closed? Is Turkey now a candidate to become a fragile State within the European Community?

In many parts of the world some countries, with enormous reserves of natural resources (exploited by multinationals), face serious problems of fragility and insecurity, when their resources could make them viable and economically sustainable.

It is a pity that after so many dozens of years, the international community has still not managed to resolve the root problems of those countries and instead maintains their fragility.

It is regrettable that the decision making centres of the world were not able to clearly analyse the consequences of their actions so that we might have prevented the incongruence of the appeal, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for \$5 billion to assist Syrian refugees. We are relieved to hear British Prime Minister David Cameron announce that the G8 will donate \$1.5 billion for humanitarian aid to the Syrian refugees.

And all of this takes place, ladies and gentlemen, while more than 1.5 billion people in the underdeveloped world go hungry and suffer from disease, exclusion, violence and social conflicts!

With the increase of violence, which is accepted and consented to in the defence of democracy and human rights, we are not able to foresee a successful outcome for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which appear to correct the errors of the Millennium Development Goals set in 2000. The major global financial crisis does not allow us to have great hopes that the Post-2015 Development Agenda will become a reality, in the medium term!

I ask these questions so that we, the Timorese, can understand that the process of State building is not an easy task. I ask these questions so that we, the Timorese,



can also understand that the governance of States, that are developed over centuries of existence, have their own internal problems which are, socially and economically, very serious - as we can see throughout Europe.

It was precisely to answer our own question of 'why... all of this?', happening in the globalised world, and in this world of enormous technological breakthroughs that, in April 2010, we promoted an International Conference on 'Peacebuilding and Statebuilding', out of which emerged the 'g7+', advocating a 'New Deal' for engaging with the development partners.

As a young member of the United Nations, we felt that we also had the duty to contribute to the correction of the mechanisms used to deal with poor and weak countries.

This correction must necessarily entail these countries taking responsibility for examining themselves, and through this analysis, to understand their weaknesses, their flaws and the errors they have made, in order to firmly enable the correction of these flaws and errors through a process of ongoing programs.

However, this process must belong to the countries themselves, which must follow the principles of 'ownership and leadership'.

It was guided by this perspective of 'ownership and leadership' that, during the difficult circumstances of 2008, we decided to ask UNMIT/UNPOL and the ISF to remain quiet in their barracks, so that the F-FDTL and the PNTL might take on full responsibility for solving the problems brought by the crisis that belonged to us, the Timorese. Immediately afterwards, we gave back to these international organisations their competencies, thus beginning the reform process of our two security institutions.

At the time, the first goal was to 'step away from fragility' in terms of political and social instability, which reflected itself in the insecurity of our population and their assets. And we did it.

When we celebrated our first ten years as a sovereign State, we were able to convey to our people a new sense of security, allowing a new confidence in the future of this nation. The withdrawal of UNMIT and the ISF, at the end of 2012, was a confirmation of this success, in which UNMIT and the ISF played an active role.

The second goal was to consolidate the core institutions of the State, seeking to provide gradual capacity and ongoing training to staff, so that in the medium to long



term they will surely be able to respond by themselves to the problems and challenges faced by the nation.

After leaving behind the crisis of 2006-2008, (the same crisis that some experts, with considerable experience in handling crises in several countries, said we would only solve after 2018) we initiated a long process in order to prepare our future as a State and as a Nation. We became aware that we could no longer guide ourselves only by Annual Action Plans.

Therefore, in 2011, after an extensive consultation throughout the country, we approved a Strategic Development Plan for the next 20 years.

Additionally, an important guiding principle is that we must always take into account the social, cultural, economic and political reality of Timor-Leste.

Only this clear conscience of our own reality can liberate ourselves from the 'sense of guilt', if indeed it exists, for not agreeing with assessments that did not reflect these specific characteristics of our process, since they would require us to wear shoes that are too big for our feet. Or, as can happen every year, we can refuse partners assistance when it is not integrated in our own annual programs.

I am reading the Report by the 'International Crisis Group' and my first impression is that the ICG experts continue to have reviewing parameters that would be more appropriate for countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Guinea-Bissau or Mali, for example.

#### Excellencies

During these first ten years of existence as a sovereign State we made fighting poverty a National Cause, and will continue to do so until it is eradicated from Timor-Leste. As such, we are focusing on social and economic policies to reduce social inequities in terms of education, health and job creation.

We are aware of the great challenges ahead of us before we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Accordingly, the Fifth Constitutional Government drafted the guidelines for carrying out the Strategic Development Plan during the five years of its mandate. This will drive the carrying out of activities to gradually reduce poverty, seeking to eradicate it in the medium term.

As a complementary instrument we have the 2010 Census which provides us with an objective snapshot of the actual living conditions of each household. This will enable us to measure progress, periodically, to determine the advancement which has been achieved.

#### Excellencies

Although the Strategic Development Plan concerns the period from 2011 to 2030, and while we started with research and studies in good time, 2012 was a year full of electoral activities, preventing us from continuing major projects in the manner that we would have liked.

The Fifth Constitutional Government entered into office on 8 August 2012 and its 5-year Program was approved on 12 September of that same year. In a way, I should say, the Program of the Fifth Constitutional Government is the program for the first five years of the Strategic Development Plan.

When presenting this Program to the National Parliament I reminded the lawmakers and all Timorese that planning is not an easy task, particularly when there are so many different and competing priorities. Planning national development is like managing a complex network of challenges, since it is not possible to cover all priorities at the same time. We must also take into account our limitations in terms of specialised human resources, as well as the stagnation of our productive sectors.

For these 5 years, the Government has given special attention to the development of Social Capital, recognising that the true wealth of any nation is in its people. And so, the Government is committed to maximising service delivery in the health and education sectors and to improve the overall living quality of the Timorese as a condition for a fair and progressive society.

In the same way, the Government is aware that to develop the nation, build a modern and productive economy and create jobs it is necessary to build core infrastructure. And so, the Government has a broad infrastructure program covering roads and bridges, water and sanitation, ports and airports.

On the other hand, the Government considered the stage of the national private sector and the fact that there is little economic diversification, with excessive concentration in agricultural production which, even so, lacks major expansion and



productivity gains. The Government intends to explore the strong economic potential in the areas of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and tourism.

The Government seeks to encourage the creation of cooperatives and the development of agro-industries, while implementing the National Development Plan for Sucos, so as to continue and strengthen the quality of the Decentralised Development Programs.

In order to be able to achieve all these goals there is an absolute need to improve the country's administrative and financial management, since this is a requirement for good governance. As such, the Government will provide assistance to State institutions, promoting the operational capacity of public administration, so that institutions may carry out their tasks with a sense of rigour, transparency and accountability.

The Government is also aware of the need to bring public administration closer to the citizens, in order to provide better service delivery and to enable more effective local democratic participation. We have held public debates in the 13 districts so that every Timorese citizen knows that creating a municipality means more than just establishing a structure that may result in additional expenses for the State. It is necessary to carry out training and capacity building programs so that the structures to be created may actually respond to the problems and challenges that every municipality will necessarily face.

We embraced the idea of a new development paradigm. We, the Timorese, want to get away from simplistic mathematical and statistical calculations of our actions to justify our proposed investments.

And to make it possible to establish a new paradigm of action in the efficient and sustainable fight against poverty, Dr Mari Alktiri is leading the transformation of Oe-Kusse into a Special Zone of Economic and Social Markets.

#### Excellencies

We know the country we want to be ten years from now. We want to have a healthy and educated population with more opportunities to develop professional activities and that can protect the people's wellbeing in a politically and socially stable and safe environment.

Ten years from now, we want to have a health service able to provide specialised care, with primary services provided by health clinics in an adequate ratio across the territory.

We want investment in education across all levels and all social sectors, including specific attention to the more fragile and socially marginalised groups. We want investment in education to include technical and professional capacity building, since we want young Timorese students to have sound education alternatives within the national territory, namely a higher education sector integrated and articulated with the business sector, so as to provide a first working experience.

One fundamental pillar is the substantial improvement of our infrastructure, which is our primary foundation for our economic growth and for improving the living conditions of all Timorese. Improving our roads to international standards will enable the movement of people, goods and services throughout the country, which is essential for the growth of Timor-Leste. There will be public water supply and sanitation covering every home, in accordance with a vital effort to improve national health.

The development of infrastructure will also comply with the principle of energy efficiency, focusing on renewable energy alternatives so that at least half of the needs in the sector are met through renewable sources.

Also in the infrastructure sector, ten years from now we will have established in several parts of the country the ports and airports we need so that Timor-Leste can have integrated growth. More particularly, we want to transform the south coast into a primary development area of our country, thereby making the best use of the petroleum sector. This means that, ten years from now, we will have the Suai Supply Base operational and the Betano Refinery project in an advanced stage of construction.

Ten years from now, the investment made in sectors such as petroleum and other national resources will enable the diversification of the economy by strengthening other traditional sectors like agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Ten years from now, our sectors of livestock and fisheries should be oriented towards exports, with food production increasing in such a way as to enable supply to exceed demand.

Timor-Leste also possesses unique wealth, such as the beauty of our mountains and our coast and the depth of our culture and traditions. This legacy has an enormous potential as the basis for the sustainable growth of our tourism sector. Ten years from now we want to be able to receive visitors throughout the national territory, aided by an improved infrastructure network and efficient local companies.

Indeed, the multiplication of local companies is one of the key goals in the Program of the Fifth Constitutional Government. We know that for balanced growth



across the country we need to stimulate a dynamic and entrepreneurial private sector, with a sound structure that enables the creation of employment and sustainable livelihoods for all Timorese. Ten years from now, we want that structure to include several pillars, such as an Development Bank, an Investment Agency, a strong Commercial Bank and an efficient legal framework in terms of property rights, land rights and labour law.

---

In order to boost the private sector and to transform Timor-Leste into a high middle income country, we know that one of our priorities must continue to be the strengthening of the institutional framework. This has been a cornerstone in our democratic evolution, which is why during the next decade we want to continue strengthening our institutions. This way we will give the Timorese, foreign investors and our development partners the necessary confidence to build this country together.

In regard to governance, we want the management of public assets to be characterised by transparency and a culture of accountability. Ten years from now, we also want Municipalities in each district to be fully operational administrations, so as to make governance more efficient throughout the country, correcting imbalances between urban and rural areas.

The justice sector will also receive special attention. Ten years from now, we want every Timorese citizen to have real access to efficient and effective legal services, so that they may feel that justice is impartial, because justice upholds equality in its judgments. We also want Timor-Leste to become a country that complies in full with commitments to human rights and gender equality at every level of society.

This is the vision of a country that wants to modernise in every aspect, with general access to information technology supported by fibre optic cables around the country.

We also believe that ascension to ASEAN will enable Timor-Leste to play a different role in the world, by making use of the special ties we have with our neighbours in Asia and in the Pacific, as well as by establishing bridges with our friends in the CPLP group. By opening diplomatic representations in other regions, Timor-Leste will be able to open new channels of dialogue that may also promote foreign investment in our country.

We want to invest in a new participation by our country in the international system, namely by entering other multilateral debates and decision-making spheres. We also want to make an active contribution to improving international policies

regarding aid and conflict resolution, through forums of dialogue such as the 'g7+', which we are proud to lead.

Excellencies,

In general terms, our principle is to take into account the macro and micro doctrines that are supposed to be universal but only as a guideline to our annual and long term policies. The fundamental reason is that these policies have to reflect the current and real needs of our country.

These macro economic theories were not capable of solving the global financial crisis. The world today needs a more human doctrine to free itself from the mathematical calculations of money that define the GDP of nations as an instrument to evaluate and separate the rich from the poor all living at the cost of the speculations of the market.

In February I asked this question at our National Parliament and today the group of the 8 more developed countries is discussing the issue of tax evasion of trillions of dollars a year in the US and the European Union.

We know that inflation will be a constant challenge for our economic growth that will demand considerable public investment.

The economic miracles in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many without the help of natural resources, show a consistent focus on public investment, in the creation of basic conditions for generating other types of wealth, in maintaining a double digit growth rates and in dealing with a double digit inflation. The question put to them when seeking proper solutions in each of their programs' period of implementation was how low it should be and how high it can be.

However the dilemma is choosing between stopping the programs of development to deal with inflation or whether they should merely strive not to let inflation run wild without the necessary control. We are conscious of the various factors, external and internal, that produce inflation in our country and for that reason we will create the necessary conditions and instruments capable of minimising it.

Timor-Leste has enormous wealth in terms of natural resources, namely in oil and gas. We know that they are not renewable resources. However, it is absolutely necessary to utilise these resources to develop our country and the reason is so that in the future we are able to be a non-petroleum dependent economy. We assumed since the First Constitutional Government a commitment to the people of using the money of



the petroleum revenues in a sustainable way to ensure the prosperity of future generations. Today, we are studying the best way to diversify the investment in our petroleum fund.

---

Timor-Leste subscribed to the requirements of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) being the third country in the world and the first in Asia to do so and we have already supported several countries that want to understand better our practices.

Excellencies,

We strongly believe in this project. We believe in the vision that we have for Timor-Leste, especially because we know our country from one end to the other, and we know the determination of our future when they know the future ahead.

We know that the challenges we must face are immense and that the only way that they can be overcome is through an integrated and sustainable development.

I hope that the development partners in attendance today will accept this challenge and join us in believing in this vision and in this project. It was precisely the combination of national determination and firm support from the international community that brought us this far. We believe that if we continue walking this path together, today as we did yesterday, we may continue to transform Timor-Leste into the country that we all want it to be.

Thank you very much.

19 June 2013  
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

sph A SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS WEBSITE

Thursday, 13 June 2013 Last updated at 5:56 am [Mobile E-paper](#) [Reader](#) [E-paper](#) [Login](#) [Subscribe](#)

**FX SEASONS** **CHECK OUT THE PRIZES!**

ASUS Taichi worth \$2,698

ASUS Vivobook worth \$799

ASUS MemoPad worth \$298

Fraser's Centrepoint Mall Shopping Voucher

**ST 701** The Leading Online Classifieds [st701.com](#)

[JOBS](#) [CARS](#) [PROPERTY](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#)

THE AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE: BEST IN ONLINE MEDIA (GOLD) - WAN-IFRA ASIA DIGITAL MEDIA AWARDS 2012

**ST Breaking News** **SE Asia** **ST Index** **Singapore weather** **Search StraitsTimes.com**

3,113.94 39.5 27 °C - 33 °C

[Breaking News](#) [Premium](#) [Videos](#) [Citizen Journalism](#) [Communities](#) [Photos / Art](#) [Straits Times Index](#) [kiss92](#) [LISTEN LIVE!](#)

[The Conversation](#) [Parliament](#) [My Tip-Off](#) [School Pocket Money Fund](#) [ChildAid](#) [Motoring](#) [Cars](#) [Jobs](#) [Property](#) [Classifieds](#) [Newsletter](#) [SINGAPOREAN](#) [THE STRAITS TIMES COMMUNITIES](#) [Entertainment](#) [Lollipop](#) [THROUGH THE LENS](#) [asiareport](#)

## UN chief names Singaporean as special adviser for Timor Leste

Published  
on Jun 11,  
2013  
8:52 PM

124

46

0

news  
POST

[Purchase  
this article  
for  
republication](#)

[PhotoBank/](#)  
[Buy SPH](#)  
[photos](#)



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon on Monday announced the appointment of Dr Noeleen Heyzer of Singapore, the current executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as his special adviser for Timor-Leste, China's state news agency reported. -- BT FILE PHOTO: JOSEPH NAIR

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon on Monday announced the appointment of Dr Noeleen Heyzer of Singapore, the current executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as his special adviser for Timor-Leste, China's state news agency reported.

Dr Heyzer, who was appointed to the current position by Mr Ban in July 2007, will carry out both functions concurrently, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here.

"She will work closely with the government and with the United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations CountryTeam to support the continuing efforts of Timor-Leste towards peace building, state-building and inclusive and sustainable development," Xinhua news agency quoted Mr Nesirky as saying.

Dr Heyzer will also further strengthen the on-going partnership between the Timor-Leste government and the United Nations to help improve the lives of the people in the country, Xinhua reported.

TO READ THE FULL STORY...

[Log in](#)[Subscribe](#)

### SE Asia

[Thai patience over southern violence wearing thin](#)

[Myanmar readmitted to EU trade scheme](#)

[Myanmar monks to meet over deadly religious unrest](#)

[Man arrested in Bali over rape of Australian tourist](#)

[Myanmar man gets 26 years for attack that caused riots](#)

### Most Popular

1. [Singaporean who overstayed in Malaysia gets to go home at last](#)
2. [Thai police arrest pet shop owner with 14 white lions](#)
3. [Outspoken Thai businessman feared slain by driver](#)
4. [UN chief names Singaporean as special adviser for Timor-Leste](#)
5. [Man arrested in Bali over rape of Australian tourist](#)
6. [Hundreds of strikers fired from Nike factory in Cambodia](#)
7. [Myanmar Airlines offering half-price tickets for its citizens in Malaysia to return home](#)
8. ['Raped' Irish woman in India hospital after drug overdose](#)
9. [Merrill Lynch plane crashes in Indonesia; all 46 passengers safe](#)
10. [Myanmar man gets 26 years for attack that caused riots](#)

HOW MUCH MUST I PAY MONTHLY  
FOR MY NEW HOME?

Find out with our [Mortgage Loan Calculator](#).



At STProperty.com, your ideal property isn't hard to find.



NEXT STORY: [Myanmar readmitted to EU trade scheme](#)

Like 110 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

## Featured Video

Watch Video



1 odd tip for a flat stomach  
Burn off some of your stomach fat each day by  
following this 1 weird tip. [Tip >>](#)

SIXPACK... [Singaporean.com](#)

## Add New Comment

Required: Please login below to comment.

[Straitstimes.com](#)

Type your comment here.

Post as ...

Showing 1 comment

Sort by Newest first

[Subscribe by email](#)[Subscribe by RSS](#)Real-time updating is **paused**. ([Resume](#))**angiekbk** 1 day ago

She is NOT an ex-Paper General?

I thought ONLY ex-Paper General get postings to high position? What happened?

Like

Reply

comments powered by Disqus



# The Doctor's master plan

By: The INDEPENDENTE

**WHEN** the people of Timor-Leste were finally liberated and given back their country, in May 2002, it was a desperately wounded people and battered economy that its new leaders took responsibility for. Today, just under one month and eleven years into independence the United Nations new special advisor for Timor-Leste says there is much to be proud of.

But as Singaporean-born Dr Noeleen Heyzer prepares to take on her new position she says it is now more poignant than ever before for the decision makers of Asia's youngest nation to keep their eyes firmly on the ball.

"As we focus on this nationally-owned and nationally-driven plan at this implementation meeting, and given the magnitude of the task that still remains to sustain the gains already made by this young nation, I call on all our development partners to prioritise support for Timor-Leste's development objectives. With the proper support, Timor-Leste's journey towards sustainable peace, democracy, and development can be an inspirational example for all." Dr Heyzer said in her speech at the Timor Leste Government and Development Partners Conference in Dili last Thursday.

Dr Heyzer believes progress will only come with a steadfast focus on building an inclusive economic growth program and with that it means job generation.

She believes to build much-needed social cohesion and shared prosperity Timor-Leste must focus and invest in the areas where vulnerable people live and where they work, as well as in the skills and assets, which they possess. Rural people, and indeed rural women, have to become central in the picture for social and economic development.

Bringing down the costs



**Dr Noeleen Heyzer has a vision of an inclusive and stable Timor Leste. As the strategist steps into her new role as Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary General for the island nation she speaks openly about her desire to see a prioritised and rural-focused economic development program.**

of essential goods, and thus supporting the too many people who are being hamstrung daily by inflated costs of basic goods, a key area she would also like to prioritise by the government.

To do, so Dr Heyzer points to strengthening investment and support for the achievement of Timor-Leste's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), "especially in the areas of housing; water and sanitation; health and nutrition; quality education; women's equality and empowerment; as well as in the physical and social infrastructure for rural areas to be better able to access markets and development services."

Of critical importance she cites investing in the productivity and value-addition of agribusiness, as well as small and medium size businesses (SMEs) in rural infrastructure and food security.

"We need to generate increased employment and job opportunities, so that more people, including youth, can engage in jobs and productively contribute to the achievements of the country.

"In this connection, it is also important to support basic vocational skills development, so that more Timorese communities can take advantage of the construction and infrastructure agenda of the country."

With one of Asia's youngest populations – 70 per cent under the age of 30 – Dr Heyzer says it is vital that decision makers change the paradigm they are seeing the country. Innovation, and capturing the creative energy of youth, she attests, is the key to "unlocking a potential of the country."

Looking specifically at income streams Dr Heyzer says it cannot be ignored that Timor Leste is one of the most petroleum-reliant nations in the world and has a double-digit inflation rate that no one should be comfortable with.

However, she believes "wise" investment has been the driver behind the nation's financial revenues from the oil reserves in the Timor Sea growing from US\$1.8 billion in 2007 to US\$13 billion this year, and she is hoping this will continue.

Moving forward, Dr Heyzer said the focus must "now" shift to diversification. "Timor-Leste still lacks a functioning productive sector that can supply enough basic inputs, and the imports of goods and services have therefore continued to grow. This is occurring concurrently with persistent unemployment," she said.

"These are large challenges, but they also present opportunities to further strengthen and build durable economic foundations that diversify the economic base, and to target sectors such as agri-business, fisheries, tourism, and petrochemicals that can generate increased employment and also substitute for some of the imported goods – especially in the area of food security."

In terms of its regional position Dr Heyzer believes Timor-Leste is already a valuable part of the fabric of South-East Asia – "standing at the crossroads between Asia and the Pacific."

"I see my role as helping to bring the region's expertise, assets, and assistance to the country, which will be important to support Timor-Leste's application for membership in ASEAN, and to help promote a better understanding of the needs and opportunities of Timor-Leste as it seeks to further integrate into this dynamic region.

\*Noeleen Heyzer currently serves as the Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). She was appointed to the position by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in July 2007.

*On 10 June 2013, Heyzer was appointed as Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary General for Timor-Leste by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. She will serve the two positions concurrently.*





# THE STRAITS TIMES

## asiareport

go back to  
THE STRAITS TIMES  
[www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com)

follow asiareport



Search



[Politics/Diplomacy](#) [Economy](#) [In Transition](#) [Opinion](#) [Editorial](#) [Blogs](#) [Leisure](#) [Pictures](#) [Videos](#)

[Greater China](#) [India / South Asia](#) [Japan / Korea](#) [Asean](#) [Australia / New Zealand](#) [Asia-US](#) [Asia-Europe](#)

## Singaporean seeks to help Timor Leste fulfil its potential

Published on  
Jul 01 2013

<http://iavas.wwww.criptv.straitstimes.com>  
mes.co

1  
1  
1



[http://www.straitstimes.com/sites/straitstimes.com/files/ST\\_20130701\\_JINNOLEEN\\_3725501e.jpg](http://www.straitstimes.com/sites/straitstimes.com/files/ST_20130701_JINNOLEEN_3725501e.jpg)

Dr Noeleen Heyzer, newly appointed as adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Timor Leste, is no stranger to the country. As the head of Unifem, she met leaders and locals during a visit there in 2003. — PHOTO: UNESCAP

NEWS  
POST

[Purchase this article for your business](#)  
[Print this article](#)  
[Email this article](#)  
[Share this article](#)  
[Feedback](#)

PhotoBank  
[View All](#)  
[Upload](#)  
[Download](#)  
[Help](#)

By Nimat Ghosh, Indonesia Bureau Chief in Bangkok

ON A trip to Dili in Timor Leste last month, United Nations undersecretary-general Noeleen Heyzer spent an hour and a half in private talks with Mr Xanana Gusmao, the Prime Minister of a country of just over a million people that won its hard-fought independence from Indonesia 11 years ago.

The undersecretary came out with the reassuring conviction that Timor Leste's leadership "has a genuine desire to make things work and is really going all out", she said in an interview with The Straits Times.

"The Prime Minister told me, the country has paid a very high price for its freedom and I will do everything I can to make it work. The best thing is, I have some money to make it possible. But I don't have the people."

Money is not a problem because of Timor Leste's Petroleum Fund. Revenue from offshore oil in the Timor Sea is the backbone of the economy. But the challenge in one of the region's poorest nations is how to manage it for future generations, while ensuring that economic growth has a more diversified base and is socially equitable.

TAILORED STORY

### TAILOR-MADE FOR THE JOB

This is the sort of role that seems designed for her. She has spent decades

### PEOPLE

• **Singaporean seeks to help Timor Leste fulfil its potential** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/people/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701\)](#)

• **Gillard's downfall: Don't blame it on gender** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/australia/story/gillards-dow-fall-dont-blame-it-gender-20130701\)](#)

• **On a roll in tireless fight to sell tyres online** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/people/story/roll-tireless-fight-sell-tyres-online-20130630\)](#)

• **Ballerina dreams dashed, she leaps into science** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/people/story/ballerina-dreams-dashed-she-leaps-science-20130630\)](#)

• **Bernanke - unabashed Depression buff** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/people/story/bernanke-unabashed-depression-buff-20130624\)](#)

• **Second Chinese woman to soar into space** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/china/story/second-chinese-woman-soar-space-20130617\)](#)

• **From aspiring Xuzhou teen to woman of influence** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/people/story/aspiring-xuzhou-teen-woman-influence-20130617\)](#)

• **All eyes on Pakistan's PM after comeback** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/pakistan/story/all-eyes-pakistans-pm-after-comeback-20130610\)](#)

• **Infosys co-founder back to fight the odds again** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/india/story/infosys-co-founder-back-fight-the-odds-again-20130603\)](#)

• **Taiwanese celeb baker accepts NUS offer** [\(the-big-story/asia-report/taiwan/story/taiwanese-celeb-baker-accepts-nus-offer-20130530\)](#)

### MORE STORIES

[\(ASIAREPORT/PEOPLE-TO-WATCH\)](#)

Singaporean seeks to help Timor Leste fulfil its potential  
 This is the sort of role that seems designed for her... She has spent decades working on large issues. Now, she gets to work on a specific country and focus on a specific people. It's the kind of assignment she will excel at.

- A former UN employee who worked with the UN undersecretary-general in the past

#### THE BIG CHALLENGE

The Prime Minister told me, the country has paid a very high price for its freedom and I will do everything I can to make it work. The best thing is, I have some money to make it possible. But I don't have the people.

- Dr Noeleen Heyzer

TO READ THE FULL STORY

[Log in](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/asia-report/peoples/story/singaporean-seeks-help-timor-leste-fulfil-its-potential-20130701](#)

ดูใจ

เป็นคนแรกของเอเชียตะวันออกเฉียงใต้



Add New Comment

Required: Please login below to comment.

[#1](#)

[#2](#)

[#3](#)

[#4](#)

[StraitsTimes.com](#)

Post as ...

Showing 0 comments

Sort by **Newest first**

☐ [Subscribe by email \(#1\)](#)

☐ [Subscribe by RSS](#)

[http://the-straitstimes.com/1258460/first-req](#)

Real-time updating is **paused**. [\[Resume\]](#) (#)

comments powered by [DISQUS](#) ([http://disqus.com](#))





**Implementation Plan  
ToR of the Special Adviser of the United Nations  
Secretary-General for Timor-Leste**

by  
**Noeleen Heyzer**  
Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General  
for Timor-Leste

---

In fulfilling her terms of reference, the Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General for Timor-Leste (SASG) will be guided by the priority areas identified in the Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030) as well as the four key focused areas of the fifth Constitutional Government.

These are:

- (a) Development of the social capital through capacity building and investment in education and health;
- (b) Basic infrastructure;
- (c) Development of the economy particularly agriculture, tourism and the petroleum industry;
- (d) The consolidation of the institutional framework for good governance.

In discussion with the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste who is the main government counterpart of the SASG, it is agreed that she will concentrate on providing advice on the following areas identified under each of the five clusters of her ToR:

**I. Clusters identified in the ToR**

**1. Promoting Timor-Leste on the regional and global scenes** to help ensure that the country will continue to be an active player in regional and international discussions on development and capacity building and to benefit from regional and international support in a variety of areas. This would include, but not be limited to, sharing of good development practices and advice in mobilizing financial, personnel and institutional resources for key Government programs.

The SASG will concentrate on providing advice on job creation and inclusive sustainable development in agriculture and tourism, as well as on capacity building of human resources. This would involve harnessing the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships for:



- **Sustainable and community tourism.** Assist by organizing a meeting to mobilize key responsible private sector leaders and stakeholders with expertise to develop a ten year master plan for sustainable and community tourism.

Timeframe: September 2013 – December 2014

- **Food security, sustainable agriculture and zero hunger** FAO, the Thai Government, CAPSA<sup>1</sup>, CSAM<sup>2</sup> and Oxfam would like to support the implementation of the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge campaign which the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste launched at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Challenge means 100% access to adequate food all year round, zero stunted children less than 2 years old, that all food systems are sustainable, 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income and zero loss or waste of food. (There is a possibility that the Director General of FAO as well as the Secretary-General's Adviser on food security, Mr. David Navarro, could visit the country to support and launch this initiative at the local level.) The RC and the UNCT would like this to be a major event.

Timeframe: September 2013 – December 2014

- **Skills training, scholarships and exposure visit.** The SASG will mobilize ESCAP's support (APCICT<sup>3</sup>) for training in e-government; technical support (SIAP<sup>4</sup>) to build a solid statistical system; placement of three young leaders in the Trade and Investment Division, and possible vocational training from ASEAN countries for basic immediate skills development for job placement, as well as scholarships for medium and longer term development.

Timeframe: Immediate

- **Distinguished Development Leaders Dialogue series.** The Prime Minister has asked me to establish a Distinguished Development Leaders Dialogue series (DDLD) to bring top practitioners to Timor Leste to share good development and governance practices to support his strategy of strengthening accountable institutions, building the developmental State, and improving governance. I envision doing this together with him along the lines of the development forums that I successfully initiated in Myanmar 2009 to catalyze the government's reform agenda.

---

**Regional Institutes of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific:**

<sup>1</sup> The Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), Bogor, Indonesia.

<sup>2</sup> Centre for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization (CSAM), Beijing, People's Republic of China.

<sup>3</sup> Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), Incheon, Republic of Korea

<sup>4</sup> Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Chiba, Japan

2. Exercising its **leadership role** in the context of the **g7+and the New Deal**, including, but not limited to, the promotion, with the United Nations Country Team and United Nations regional commissions of the peace building and state building goals (PSGs) in fragile states.

The SASG will work closely with, and take directions from the Finance Minister of Timor-Leste who is the chair of the g7+, the secretariat of the g7+, and consult with the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team.

3. Organizing its internal preparations for **integrating into regional forums**, possibly in partnership with the relevant members of United Nations Country Team, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific.

The SASG will focus on greater engagement at the regional level through ESCAP focusing on the regional connectivity agenda including through ASEAN. (See ESCAP's project proposal on Capacity Building for implementing Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.) The areas of particular focus will be ICT connectivity, transport, trade and investment, small and medium enterprise development.

4. Strengthening, with the United Nations Country Team where relevant, the police and the military with a view, among other things, to promoting further **participation by Timor-Leste in United Nations peacekeeping operations** around the world.

The Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team will take the lead in this area while the SASG would engage with them on a need be basis. The SASG will, however, consult with United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) who has the lead in liaising with Member states on potential military and police contribution for peacekeeping operations.

5. Generally, following the political developments in the country and, as required and requested by the Government, supporting the relevant national authorities in their continuing efforts to **promote reconciliation and national unity** to overcome past divisions and help democratic norms and values to fully take root for the long term.

The SASG will ask for regular updates from various stakeholders including the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations. The Prime Minister has also suggested consultation with the leader of the Opposition. I will also consult with civil society and the women's organizations from time to time.



## II. Consultations and modalities for providing advice

In considering the best arrangements for carrying out the role of a non resident SASG and effectively advising the Timor-Leste Government, the SASG discussed with the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste:

- (i) the most appropriate time to travel to Timor-Leste for a formal introductory visit and meetings with key government state officials and other relevant Timorese Stakeholders (e.g. political parties, civil society, church, diplomatic corps in Dili)
- (ii) the most effective arrangements to provide advice to the Prime Minister and his government on the five issues specified in the ToR so as to promote national ownership and Government-driven efforts toward peace building, state building and inclusive and sustainable development.

My consultations with the Prime Minister and his team have ensured that the SASG and the Government share a common vision of expected priority tasks during this assignment, and have enabled SASG to share the joint vision with the Resident Coordinator/United Nations Country Team, ESCAP and any other relevant UN entities of the RCM.

### **Advisory and consultative modalities**

- (i) The Prime Minister has asked that I play an advisory role to him during meetings of the Development Policy Coordination Mechanism (DPCM). The DPCM was established in April 2013 by the Government to implement, monitor and coordinate the Strategic Development Plan and the Government Program over the next five years.

The objectives of the DCPM are to identify Government priorities and improve inter-ministerial coordination and serve as policy dialogue forum between the Government and development partners, including the UN. The Mechanism is expected to monitor progress, challenges and results of implementation of the Strategic Development Plan and the Government Program over the next five years.

The Office of the Prime Minister, with the support of the Ministry of Finance, manages the DPCM and provides oversight to the four strategic sectors. The four strategic sectors working groups are aligned with the four pillars of the Strategic Development Plan: Social Strategic Sector, Economic Strategic Sector, Infrastructure Development Strategic Sector and the Governance/Institutional Development Strategic Sector. These strategic sectors working groups are co-chaired by relevant Ministries on a rotation basis every 3-6 months. For example, the co-chairs of the Economic Strategic Sector Working Group are the Ministry of

Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The strategic sector working groups will be supported by the designated development partners. Support to the Economic Strategic Sector will be provided by the World Bank, to the Social Strategic Sector by AusAID, to the Infrastructure Strategic Sector by ADB, and support to the Governance Sector will be provided by UN.

Secretariats for strategic sectors working groups are being established in the responsible ministries. A sub-sector working group for ASEAN will be established directly under the Office of the Prime Minister. A National Secretariat will be established to help coordinate various levels of inputs from dedicated secretariats. The National Secretariat will be established under the PM Office and the Development Partnership Management Unit in the Ministry of Finance, with the support of the United Nations and other development partners.

The DPCM is to become operational through quarterly meetings at a time when I would be visiting Timor Leste. Advice to the PM would most probably take the form of a formal statement at the closing ceremony of the DPCM quarterly meeting.

(ii) In addition, at the request of the SASG, the Prime Minister would chair meetings comprised of senior Government and State officials (e.g. key Ministers, PNTL Commissioner, F-FDTL Commander) and the Resident Coordinator and other senior member of the UNCT. Depending on the agenda items of each meeting, the Prime Minister may decide to also invite other Timorese stakeholders (e.g. from civil society, parliamentary sub-committees, the oppositions) as well as other UN international entities (e.g. ADB, bilateral donors, ASEAN members) to particular meetings as appropriate including to provide briefings.

(iii) A focal point in the PM's office has been designated by the government to assist in scheduling meetings of the SASG with various government/ state officials. The Resident Coordinator's office will assist with scheduling meetings with Timorese stakeholders other than government officials.

**Collaboration with the Resident Coordinator (RC) /  
United Nations Country Team and Economic and Social Commission for Asia  
and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

I have undertaken close consultation with the Timor Leste Resident Coordinator, Mr. Knut Ostby, and the UN Country Team. The RC and I have agreed to have monthly/bimonthly meetings and I will also meet every other month with the UNCT, either in person or by teleconference, particularly to discuss special



coordinated events, the first of which will focus on food and nutritional security. As a result of the coordination already established, ESCAP is participating in and is fully engaged with the UNDAF process.

In order to support Timor Leste as a member State and my role as SASG, I established a task force on Timor Leste in ESCAP, which I will Chair. A program of work has been developed based on the TOR paragraphs that refer to ESCAP and on ESCAP's areas of competitive advantage. This program has been designed in consultation with the Prime Minister, his senior ministers, officials and advisors to identify where ESCAP could best add value and assist with the country's priority needs. The areas identified include regional connectivity to ASEAN by focusing on SME development, trade and investment facilitation, ICT development, macroeconomic policy, statistics and food security.

### **III. Reporting to New York (to be discussed with EOSG)**

#### **i) Secretary-General of the United Nations**

- Report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the outcomes of initial consultations with Prime Minister.
- Report to the Secretary-General or his designated senior officials on the execution of tasks and obtain consensus on reporting arrangements by the Secretary-General's office, e.g. submission of notes quarterly (?), teleconferences when if necessary, if necessary one visit to UNHQs at the beginning and end of assignment.
- Following discussions with the Secretary-General (SG) /Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) on the arrangements to be established to support the SASG, the agreed arrangements as approved by the SG/EOSG should be confirmed in writing and shared with the incoming Executive Secretary of ESCAP at the appropriate time to ensure a common understanding.

#### **ii) Chair of United Nations Development Group (UNDG)**

- Whenever the SASG is in New York, she will brief the Chair of UNDG as envisaged in ToR.
- If necessary there could also be discussions via teleconference.

### **IV. Human and financial resources needed for effective performance of function**

#### **1. In Timor-Leste:**

- One part time, substantive staff of an appropriate level dedicated to support SASG in carrying out SASG's tasks,
- Administrative part time staff dedicated to support the SASG\*;
- Office space in Timor-Leste for the SASG to use during visits. \*

*\* Discussed and agreed with the RC.*

2. In Bangkok:

- Substantive staff (TL Task Force) of ESCAP and other relevant UN regional offices (members of RCM) to support SASG in carrying out the SASG's tasks\*;
- Administrative part time ESCAP staff dedicated to support the SASG\*;
- Office space in the ESCAP building for the SASG to use when resident in Bangkok, preferably to be close to ESCAP/UN staff providing support to SASG\*.

*\* These will be provided as an integral part of the ESCAP engagement with Timor-Leste.*

3. Cost of performing functions as SASG on a "when actually employed basis" three visits to Timor-Leste in 2014 and one visit to New York at the beginning and end of the assignment.

- Honorarium for SASG: USD 22,500 for 2014

- Travel cost

Minimum required for three one week trips to Timor-Leste via Bali plus one trip to New York for a week: USD 18,492

Maximum required for three one week trips to Timor-Leste via Singapore plus one trip to New York for a week: USD 20,301

Total cost:

Honorarium plus travel:

- Maximum USD 42,801
- Minimum USD 40,992

This amount is included in the ESCAP programme on Timor Leste. The government has also committed approximately the same amount to be used when they request additional help as allowed by the TOR. "The Special Advisor would be request **to accompany** and advise the government in its continuing efforts towards peace building, state building and inclusive and sustainable development."

\*\*\*\*\*





PRESIDENCY OF THE  
**COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS**  
V CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT



DILI, AUGUST 31, 2013

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers on August 31, 2013**

The Government met extraordinarily this Saturday, August 31, 2013 in the meeting room of the Council of Ministers at the Government Palace in Dili, and approved the following:

**1. Contracts for major projects**

The Government decided to extend its contracts with the companies CNI22 and Bonifica (included in the National Electrification Project) to ensure the successful completion of projects in progress.

The Council of Ministers also analysed:

**1. Terms of Reference of the United Nations Special Adviser to Timor-Leste**

The Council of Ministers reviewed the Terms of Reference of the United Nations Special Adviser to Timor-Leste, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, for her term ending in December 2014.

Although non-resident, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer will ensure a direct link between Timor-Leste and the Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations. She will be guided by the priority areas identified in Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030) as well as the four key focus areas of the Government: development of social capital through capacity building and investment in education and health; basic infrastructure; development of the economy



particularly agriculture, tourism and the petroleum industry; and consolidation of the institutional framework for good governance.

The United Nations Special Adviser will visit Timor-Leste this September.

## **2. State Budget for 2014**

The Council of Ministers reviewed the proposed State Budget for the financial year 2014, with amounts by expenditure category as revised by the Ministry of Finance.



Palácio do Governo,  
Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato,  
Dili, Timor-Leste

[dndigovt1.09@gmail.com](mailto:dndigovt1.09@gmail.com)  
(+670) 33 310 608





## **Harnessing Natural Resource Wealth for Inclusive Growth and Economic Development**

**Keynote Session of the Conference by the International Monetary Fund and  
the Government of Timor-Leste in Collaboration with the Asian Development Bank,  
the World Bank and JICA  
Dili, Timor-Leste, September 17-19, 2013**

### ***Investing for a Dynamic & Inclusive Timor-Leste***

**by**

**Dr. Noeleen Heyzer,  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific, and Special Adviser of the United Nations  
Secretary-General for Timor-Leste**

Your Excellency, Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão,  
Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Development Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

#### **Introduction**

Many thanks for inviting me to this very important deliberation. It is my great honour, privilege, and pleasure to address you in my new role as Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General for Timor-Leste.

You have asked me to speak on governance issues, especially in relation to the Petroleum Fund. Governance issues are particularly important for countries rich in natural resources because their greatest challenge is how to invest in sustainable growth strategies, providing economic opportunities for their people, and building inclusive, peaceful, and dynamic societies, without exhausting their natural wealth for the next generation.

A large body of literature exists which explores the phenomenon of the "resource curse" – and groups such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative have been established to counter it. As Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz has said, "Resources should be a blessing, not a curse. They can be, but it will not happen on its own. And it will not happen easily."

Three common elements of "the curse" are well-known: (1) Because resource extraction often entails little job creation, unemployment rises together with inequality as the newly exploited natural riches may easily benefit a few. (2) Volatile resource prices cause growth to be unstable especially now, when volatility and uncertainty has become the "new normal".

(3) Resource rich countries tend not to have other exports, as their economies are not yet diversified.

But this so-called resource curse can be turned into a resource blessing, when resources underground and under the sea are invested above ground into productive investments and the building of peaceful, inclusive societies where all citizens are assured the full benefits and value of these resources, not just elites and those who live in the capital. This is the scenario we all want. It can be, but it will not happen on its own, without political leadership, proper governance, and collective accountability.

Using this framework, let us reflect on Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste is a success story for our region and for the world. In only a decade, it has risen from the ashes of conflict and laid the basic foundations for peace and security, for trust and confidence-building, and for institutions supporting democratic governance.

It is a country of great courage, with a determined people who have sacrificed much to change and shape their own destiny – a people who deserve now to see the real dividends of peace, democracy and development in their own lives and those of their children.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

#### **Petroleum Fund: Accomplishments, Challenges, and Questions**

Timor-Leste has already done well, by following global best-practices in managing the revenues from its oil fields. Oil revenues are channeled solely through the Petroleum Fund, which now stands at over \$13.6 billion, equivalent to more than three times Timor-Leste's annual GDP.

The Petroleum Fund is also compliant with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Santiago Principles, and is subject to parliamentary oversight especially regarding excessive withdrawals. The Fund's investments are placed with major international fund managers, and withdrawals are governed by a rules-based approach designed to preserve the real value of oil wealth for future generations, with the estimated sustainable income (ESI) set at 3% of oil wealth.

All of this is good news. But allow me to raise some broader issues which relate to Timor-Leste's major development challenges.

Despite rapid up-scaling of social spending and capital investment in infrastructure, including electrification and road upgrades with a view to developing the non-oil economy, creating jobs and reducing poverty, nearly half of the population still lives in poverty. Large disparities remain between rural and urban households, in terms of income, employment opportunities, education, and access to basic services. And Timor-Leste is unlikely to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015, especially as regards the Goals on poverty, underweight children, maternal mortality and sanitation.

The economy of Timor-Leste is still very reliant on the petroleum industry, with almost 80% of GDP originating from that sector. So far, contributions from agriculture and manufacturing have been modest, providing limited employment opportunities outside of the public sector and constraining widespread growth in living standards. Timor-Leste still lacks a functioning productive sector that can supply sufficient basic inputs, and it needs to diversify its economy.

In my first address in this new role, to the meeting of the Development Partners in June, I emphasized the need for sustainable use of resources and converting natural resources into



development assets. I also emphasized the need for more inclusive economic growth and job generation, especially for the youth, considering the fact that 70% of Timor-Leste's population is under the age of 30. This is vitally important for cementing social cohesion and creating hope for the future.

We have to ask, therefore, how best can the Petroleum Fund sustainably finance the development needs in education, health, food security, sanitation, housing, and infrastructure? What is the right balance between current expenditure and savings to allow the country to invest its resource and financial wealth to advance its development goals, and generate decent jobs? Is there too high an opportunity cost of investing largely in foreign assets? What is the best investment strategy for a stronger, dynamic, and inclusive Timor-Leste? These are key questions, especially when the real purchasing power of reserves may be declining with the volatility of the US dollar.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

### **Principles from Concrete Country Examples**

We are fortunate to have a number of very relevant international and regional examples from other countries which have dealt with similar challenges.

Although the Republic of Korea (ROK), for instance, is not a resource rich country, and in fact was one of the poorest countries in the 1960s, it too had a fund – the war reparations fund from Japan. Forty years ago, the ROK had a comparative advantage in growing rice. Had it stuck to this strength alone, it might be the world's most efficient grower of rice, but it would not be the industrial giant that it is today. Instead, the government invested in creating its future comparative advantages, by starting to build the Seoul-Busan expressway, one of the most important early ingredients of the country's industrialization, against the advice of its development partners at that time. The expressway not only spurred economic activities along the corridor of two major population centers, its construction was a critical learning opportunity for the people of the Republic of Korea. Today, the Republic of Korea is regarded as a leader in infrastructure construction, and in 2012 overseas construction orders granted to companies in the Republic of Korea exceeded \$500 billion. The country is also well-known for its successful Public-Private Partnerships, and IT innovations.

What is remarkable about the ROK is that during its early phase of rapid transformation, inequality did not worsen, and poverty declined rapidly with that growth, despite having inflation levels averaging 13 per cent for several years.

This experience shows that what matters is *THE QUALITY OF INVESTMENT AND OF EXPENDITURE*, not simply pre-fixed targets for expenditure, debt or inflation. Debt, deficits and inflation are important indicators but should not be the sole consideration in policy decisions for inclusive development or dynamic structural transformation.

Another useful country example, from further afield is that of Norway, which in 1969 discovered mineral reserves propelling it into the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> largest global exporter of natural gas and 7<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of oil. The design of the Norwegian petroleum fund set many of the benchmarks used today – not least because of its guiding principles to ensure fair distribution of benefits to all citizens and across generations. The Norwegian strategy of exposing their fund to moderate investment risk, and to ensuring ethical and environmentally sound investments, has reaped substantial dividends – as has their insistence on encouraging international companies to exploit the resource opportunities, but maintaining national control over these operations.

Overarching national control is important as, according to Professor Stiglitz, there is often an unavoidable conflict of interest between [usually foreign] natural resource companies and host countries: the former want to minimize what they pay, while the latter need to maximize it. Unfortunately many countries have already signed bad contracts that give a disproportionate share of the resources' value to private foreign companies, but there is a simple way out – renegotiate in the interests of better long-term relationships; if impossible – impose a windfall tax which countries all over the world, including the USA, have done.

The experience of these successful examples suggests that the developmental State must play a critical role. Political leadership and public investment have to be the major instruments to promote development policy objectives — inclusive growth and diversification of the non-resource tradable sectors – to increase the productive potential of the economy and private investment. Markets, including foreign investment, can deliver; but there need to be negotiations, and alignment with the development agenda of the country. We have witnessed what damage speculative markets can do to development by contributing to the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and recently to the Great Recession, not to mention the rise in inequality since the early 1980s.

Naturally the specific individual circumstances, resources, and priorities of every country differ widely, but the important common thread is how these successful countries managed to convert significant but ultimately limited resources into sustainable foundations for their future. They created the policy space necessary to ensure that they did not squander these resources – converting them into useful, longer-term productive economic assets, which in turn is the challenge for Timor-Leste as well.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

### **Good Governance Necessary But Not Sufficient**

There are also many examples from less successful countries of populist policies and extravagant public expenditure causing balance of payments crises, hyperinflation, and debt crises. Public policies have to be formulated and managed wisely with parliaments and civil society for greater public legitimacy and accountability.

We need, therefore, to be mindful of government's ability to spend in such a manner that benefits are shared equally among all citizens, and that nobody is left behind. As the Prime Minister has said in one of his speeches – it has to be development not just *for* the people but *with* the people.

The "good governance" agenda alone, including rule-based policies and institutions, are necessary but may not be sufficient for addressing critical development needs or building state capacity, including to deal with critical market failures.

It is often hoped that once an economy has stabilized and a government has become more restrained in terms of its budgetary expenditure, the private sector will step forward with the necessary investments for development. How realistic is this hope in Timor-Leste when the domestic economy is so small and the poverty rate is so high? Will foreign investment go beyond the resource sector? Will foreign investors transfer technology and management skills? Will Public-Private partnerships impose contingent liabilities on the government and be a burden on future budgets? Will Public-Private partnerships be inclusive and ensure access by the poor, especially those in remote areas? These are all important questions that we need to discuss.

As part of good governance, we need accountable and transparent political leadership which invests in a new and better social contract to build peace and security, and to promote



citizens' engagement, translating sustainable growth into productive employment for all. It has to adopt policies for the fairer redistribution of wealth, economic assets and opportunities – where there is better resource management and effective delivery of quality basic services to all. It also has to ensure better financial governance, addressing issues of money laundering and corruption, and encourage greater accountability of both the public and the private sectors, at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

---

Independent of how financial resources are generated, countries that have succeeded have invested in their people, in a social contract. Singapore, by way of example, has invested heavily in education – from higher education to vocational training, linked to job placements; in quality healthcare; and in affordable housing.

Rwanda, a county on the OECD list of fragile states, has risen from the hell of genocide to become a rising star of Africa. It has rebuilt its education and healthcare systems, and reduced poverty – including through targeted cash transfers, employment in public works, and the extension of micro-credit. As a consequence, overall poverty levels have decreased, and now extreme income poverty has fallen to 24 per cent from 41 per cent in 2000. Today, 60 per cent of the population lives within 5km of a healthcare centre, and life expectancy has doubled since the civil war. An effective partnership between donors and government, with a community health insurance scheme covering the whole population, has been instrumental in delivering this progress. Equally remarkable is the fact that Rwanda has the highest percentage of women in parliament in the world. I am pleased to note that, in the same vein, Timor-Leste has the highest percentage of women in parliament in Asia.

We are here today to discuss how Timor-Leste can further use its resource revenue judiciously for addressing its development deficits, to develop its human talents, to build quality social and economic infrastructure, such as roads and ports for better connectivity, good healthcare centers, and quality education, especially in rural areas. We are also here to discuss how it can build on both its current and future economic strengths, to diversify its economy – investing in sustainable tourism, agriculture, Special Economic Zones, and petroleum industries, in ways that create a peaceful, inclusive, and dynamic Timor-Leste and its neighborhood.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

### **The Role of Development Partners**

What can development partners do to help Timor-Leste move in this direction? For one, we can be more concrete in proposing the types of economic and social investments the country can make to provide real dividends for future generations. Some examples could include better quality control for infrastructure projects, provisions in contracts concluded with foreign companies to train Timorese workers in new skills, and investing in more balanced social protection systems in the country.

The expertise of the IMF is crucial in helping Timor-Leste in setting up a stable domestic financial sector which is inclusive, serves the needs of SMEs, agriculture and remote areas.

Therefore, to my development colleagues here today, let me say that together with the United Nations, we can all invest in real development – improving people's lives by closing development gaps and achieving the MDGs; exploring all possible economic and social linkages, by skilling-up the rapidly growing workforce, especially youth; developing viable local businesses, including women's enterprises; encouraging domestic processing and value-addition; and integrating natural resource wealth into the country's economic structure in sustainable ways.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, our shared responsibility is to ensure, that for Timor-Leste, the benefits of its natural resource wealth are directly harnessed to ensure dynamic and inclusive development. In this way, Timor-Leste will achieve its development aspirations, as outlined in its Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030).

Let us use this meeting to support Timor-Leste in becoming a dynamic economy and a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable society for its present and future generations, and for our region.

I thank you.



# The New Light of Myanmar

THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU

Volume XXI Number 150

9, Watling of Lawthelin 1375 ME

Friday, 13 September, 2013

## Myanmar-Timor-Leste to promote friendship, cooperation President U Thein Sein and wife lay out red carpet for Timor-Leste PM and wife



Timor-Leste Prime Minister and wife.

After taking the salute, the President and the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste inspected the Guard

**President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister of Timor-Leste Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão taking salute from the Guard of Honour.**

of Honour.

As scouts from Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No.5 welcomed the leaders of both countries waving miniature flags, the Timor-Leste Prime Minister cordially greeted them.

After the welcoming ceremony, the Timor-Leste Prime Minister presented his entourage to the President. Likewise, the President introduced his entourage to the Timor-Leste Prime Minister.

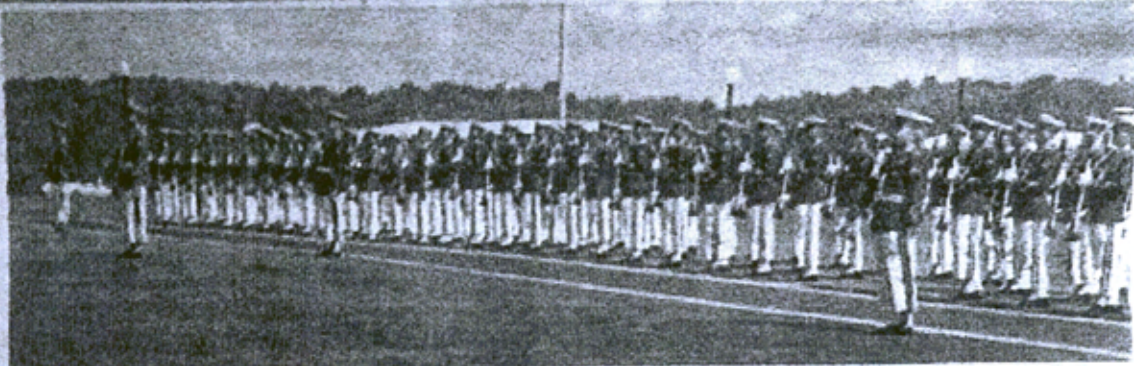
Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister U Aung Kyi and wife, Union Ministers U Thero Nyunt and U Khin Maung Soe. Deputy Minister U Thawng Tin and wife. The Timor-Leste Prime Minister and wife were accompanied by ministers and senior officials.

The President had a cordial discussion with the Timor-Leste Prime Minister at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

(See page 8)

**NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept.**—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Win extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister of Timor-Leste Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão and wife Mrs. Kirsty Sword-Gusmão on the lawns of the Presidential Palace here at 9.30 am today.

At first, President U Thein Sein and wife cordially greeted the



## Timor-Leste PM and party arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

**NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept.**—A goodwill delegation led by Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and wife Mrs. Kirsty Sword-Gusmão arrived here by air from Yangon at 8.15 am today.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International

Airport by Union Minister U Aung Kyi and wife Daw Thet Thet Swe, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Thawng Tin and wife Daw Tin Tin Aye and officials.

A girl from Fine Arts Department presented a flower basket to the Timor-Leste Prime Minister and wife. The Guard of Honour saluted the visiting Prime Minister and party. Students

welcomed the Timor-Leste Prime Minister, wife and party by waving miniature flags along both sides of the entrance road to Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA



**Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste being welcomed by Union Minister U Aung Kyi at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.**

## Central Committee for holding International Day of Democracy 2013 meets

**NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept.**—A coordination meeting of the Central Committee for holding International Day of Democracy 2013 was held at the meeting hall of Pyin Hlaung Committee here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee U Htay Oo.

Committee Chairman U Htay Oo called for coordination between the work committees for successful holding of the ceremony. Those present presented reports on preparation works by

respective work committees.

The meeting came to an end with a concluding remark by the Committee Chairman. A paper reading session will be held at Thabin Hall of Hlaung Building to mark International Day of Democracy 2013 which falls on 15 September, 2013.

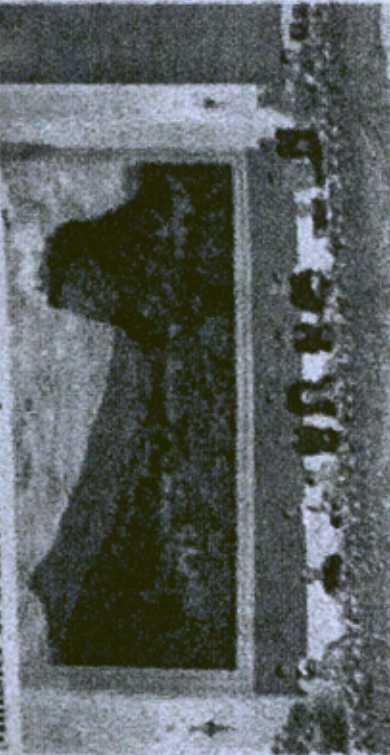
It was also attended by members of the Central Committee, chairmen and secretaries from the work committee and officials from the Hlaung Office.

MNA





**President U Thain Sein and wife host dinner to Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and wife**



**Regional development tasks clarified in Lashio**

Senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry met with representatives of the Lashio District Development Committee to discuss the implementation of the regional development plan. The meeting was held at the Lashio District Office on May 15. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government. The meeting was attended by the District Development Committee members and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government.



**Daw Khin Khin Win meets with wife of Timor-Leste Prime Minister**

The meeting was held at the Lashio District Office on May 15. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government. The meeting was attended by the District Development Committee members and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government.



**Myanmar's agricultural sector to be enhanced with JICA's assistance**

The meeting was held at the Lashio District Office on May 15. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government. The meeting was attended by the District Development Committee members and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government.

**United Myanmar League receives Russian Japanese press**

The meeting was held at the Lashio District Office on May 15. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government. The meeting was attended by the District Development Committee members and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government.



**Timor-Leste delegation goes sightseeing in Nay Pyi Taw**

The meeting was held at the Lashio District Office on May 15. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government. The meeting was attended by the District Development Committee members and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The officials discussed the progress of the plan and the challenges faced by the district. They also discussed the need for more resources and support from the central government.





*Ema hotu iha direitu no direitu ba ema hotu*  
*All people have rights and rights are for all people*

Dili, Timor-Leste  
1 August 2013

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer  
Special Adviser of the UN Secretary General for Timor-Leste  
Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Dear Dr. Heyzer,

We are writing to you regarding our concern at an apparent breach of the Refugee Convention, in particular the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, by the Timor-Leste Government. The incident relates to a group of approximately 99 Rohingya asylum seekers, who appear to have been forcibly removed from Timor-Leste without having had their claims for asylum heard.

We are a group of 14 non-governmental organisations from Timor-Leste, who are concerned with human rights. In addition to this, we are supported by several non-signatory organisations and international supporters, who, due to restraints, cannot put their names to this document at this stage. One of our representatives, the HAK (Law, Human Rights and Justice) Association have been monitoring the situation of the asylum seekers and sharing information and concern with other members. We are calling on the Government of Timor-Leste to investigate this particular case and observe human rights for both nationals and foreigners in the future (please see our letter addressed to the President, Prime Minister and Provedor for Human Rights and Justice, for further information). We urge the UN to request clarification from Timor-Leste on precise details of the events and to seek information about the group's whereabouts and welfare in Indonesia. We also request that we are kept informed about their situation where possible.

Based on information we have gathered from a range of sources, it appears that on 1<sup>st</sup> July, the asylum seekers arrived in Aliambata Village, Uatulari Sub-district, Viqueque District, on the south coast of Timor-Leste. Their arrival followed an attempt to travel by boat from Kendari, Indonesia to Australia, which failed when their boat's engine malfunctioned and the boat was blown in the direction of Timor-Leste. Our information is that the group consists of 99 people including 10 women, (one of whom was due to give birth on 29 July), 14 or 15 children, and an elderly person of around 88 years old. It is believed there are 73 Burmese Rohingya, 22 Bangladeshi Rohingya, and a newborn (born between 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July under police custody). We have recently been informed that the Ministry of Social Solidarity were aware of the group's arrival from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July, information emerged that the group had arrived in Viqueque. We understand that the group were visited by church representatives and the community assisted them at this time. It appears that the group was under police security. On 6<sup>th</sup> July, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) attempted and were denied access to the group. On the 7<sup>th</sup> July at 10am, the HAK Association were able to see three members of the group but were prohibited from talking to the group by members of the Community Policing Unit and Maritime Unit of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL), which were providing security in that area. The staff of HAK were subsequently interrogated by the police as to why they were in the area and taking photos.

The group has informed human rights contacts in Timor-Leste that while in custody, they requested asylum to the Timorese authorities but the authorities did not consider their request and they were not provided with an opportunity to access a refugee determination process (please see correspondence from one of the group members attached to this letter). The Timor-Leste Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. Jose Luis Guterres, has denied that the group requested asylum. Although he expressed solidarity with the group's plight, the actions of the Government, as we understand them, are contrary to any such expression of solidarity. Moreover, the Secretary of State for Security, Mr. Francisco da Costa Guterres, refused to comment on the whereabouts of the group when contacted, stating that he was awaiting a response from the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste to a letter he had submitted.

On 9<sup>th</sup> July, we have information that the group was transported by road by PNTL, Maritime Police and possibly other authorities, from Viqueque to Com, Lautem District. Witnesses reported to HAK that they slept in the trucks overnight, which is also what is claimed by the asylum seekers. From Com, it seems the group was either provided with a boat or transported to Liran Island, Wetar, Indonesia on 10<sup>th</sup> July. It is believed that the Timorese authorities, including Maritime Police and Navy, facilitated this process, although the precise details of what transpired are not clear.

If confirmed that the group of asylum seekers requested asylum and were not provided with an opportunity to have their claims heard, this is a clear breach of the Constitution of Timor-Leste, the Immigration and Asylum Act (2003) and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to which Timor-Leste is a signatory. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. Gueterres, himself recognised the plight of Rohingya asylum seekers and the ongoing persecution they are facing. UNHCR have repeatedly reported on the conditions of Rohingya and acknowledged that serious breaches of human rights continue to occur.

The asylum seekers are currently under Indonesian authority and the status of their health and wellbeing is unknown, with a number of highly vulnerable people in the group. On the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> July, they were taken by Indonesian navy to another destination. In their last contact with Timorese human rights workers, on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July, the group stated that they were in transit somewhere in the Banda Sea. Contact was re-established on 30<sup>th</sup> July, with the asylum seekers expressing serious concern for their safety, security and wellbeing in crowded immigration detention centre conditions. Due to the overcrowding, women and men have been separated with reports that the women and children feel vulnerable.

We are aware that the UNHCR and IOM are attempting to seek information about the group and, are hearing through other sources that there has been some response. However, there has been a lack of information coming from UNHCR and IOM Indonesia, despite repeated attempts from various sources.

On 26<sup>th</sup> July, as a group of 14 NGOs and supporters, we wrote to the President of Timor-Leste, the Prime Minister and the Provedor (Ombudsman) for Human Rights and Justice regarding this case and the apparent lack of transparency, conformity with international conventions and domestic law, and allegations of human rights abuses. To date, our letter has been acknowledged but no response given.

At the same time as being concerned for this particular group and their apparent refoulement from Timor-Leste, we have long-standing concerns about inadequate refugee determination processes in Timor-Leste. We are seeking further information but have so far not been able to gain conclusive numbers of asylum seekers. This in itself is of concern. We have reports of people attempting to claim asylum, but courts not being in a position to determine refugee status and the



Government not being in a position to facilitate resettlement in Timor-Leste or elsewhere, and, in some cases, showing disregard to the condition of asylum seekers. In the meantime, we have heard about people who are left with little or no support, including the fact that asylum seekers are commonly left in a legal limbo with no decisions made on their cases. There are unconfirmed reports of people coming to harm whilst in Timor-Leste, including the death of child born to a Rohingya asylum seeker on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

---

As part of an ongoing and growing issue of asylum seekers in South East Asia, this case highlights the issue of vulnerable people seeking asylum and their treatment by both signatory and non-signatory countries. Australia's newly announced "Papua New Guinea Solution" and reports that Australian Maritime Authorities are deliberately not responding to distress calls and putting political pressure on nearby nations is of serious concern. In addition to the above, it is understood that there is urgent need for a humane, regional response to asylum seekers and for governments to engage in constructive dialogue, while continuing to honour obligations under international law.

We have called on the Government of Timor-Leste to respond to our attached submission.

In addition, we urge the UN to:

- Request clarification and greater accountability from the Government of Timor-Leste regarding the precise circumstances of the arrival and departure of this group;
- Remind the Government of Timor-Leste of its obligations under the Refugee Convention and other international human rights conventions to which it is a signatory;
- Seek assurances from the Indonesian Government that humanitarian access will be granted to the group;
- Continue to observe, report on and support governments in the region to abide by both the written conditions and the spirit of the Refugee Convention.

Yours Sincerely,



Sisto dos Santos

Advocacy Coordinator, HAK Association

On behalf of civil society groups concerned with human rights in Timor-Leste

Attachments:

1. Submission from Civil Society to President, Prime Minister and Ombudsman for Human Rights, Timor-Leste (English translation only)
2. Statement from Zaw Win, representative of the Rohingya asylum seekers who landed in Timor-Leste
3. Supplementary statement by Emily Morrison, human rights supporter, Timor-Leste
4. Selection of photographs
5. Selection of relevant media articles supporting this letter



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

REFERENCE:

6 September 2013

Excellency,

I am pleased to commence this letter by congratulating you on your appointment as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations Office in Geneva. I look forward to our future collaboration and support for Timor-Leste, a signatory to many international human rights conventions, in its promotion and protection of human rights.

I note that Timor-Leste is one of the few countries in the Asia-Pacific region that has ratified the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967, and I commend your Government for having undertaken this important step.

Allow me to take this opportunity to raise with you the situation of a group of 95 men, women and children from Myanmar and Bangladesh who, as I have been informed, arrived by boat in the Viqueque District of Timor-Leste on 1 July 2013, as their boat required repair. The 70 individuals from Myanmar are all Rohingyas.

While I understand that the initial intention of the group was to go to Australia, there is information to suggest that at least some members of the group verbally requested the police to assist them in seeking asylum in Timor-Leste. Rather than facilitating access to the asylum procedure, the police allegedly forced the group to leave Timor-Leste by boat on 10 July. Members of the group were supposedly told that the boat was going towards Australia, whereas it actually took them to Indonesia. At the time, two of the women were pregnant. There have also been allegations of threats by the police urging the group at gunpoint to leave Timor-Leste. The group is now in the Makassar Immigration Detention Centre in Indonesia. Most of the members in the group have sought asylum, while two Bangladeshi have opted for assisted voluntary return.

J..

His Excellency Mr Marciano Octavio Garcia da Silva  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste  
to the United Nations Office in Geneva  
Switzerland

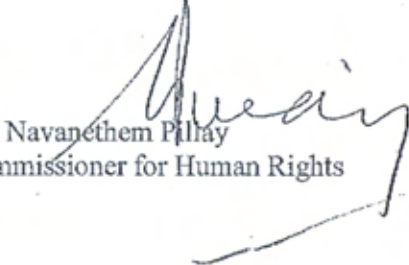




I am particularly concerned about reports that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was refused access to the group by the police in Timor-Leste. The IOM works closely with the Migration Service and frequently liaises with its Asylum Office in Timor-Leste, as well as with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). I have also been informed that local human rights organizations, including the HAK Association, were prevented by police authorities from conducting interviews with the group.

I kindly request your Government to provide my Office with additional information on reasons why IOM and local organizations were refused access to the group. I also urge the Timorese Government to ensure that future asylum seekers who arrive in Timor Leste are able to exercise their right to seek asylum through being given access to the asylum procedure. I take this opportunity to remind the Government of Timor-Leste that all persons, regardless of their legal status or other circumstance, are entitled to protection of their fundamental human rights including protection from *refoulement*. Furthermore, in exercising its sovereign right to control its borders, Timor Leste is obliged under international law to protect the human rights of all individuals.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Navanethem Pillay  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

## Situation Analysis

### 1. Development challenges

The outlook for the Timor Leste economy is fairly positive in terms of growth, but recent assessments have identified many challenges for long-term development.

The country has experienced fast growth in the past years fuelled by oil revenues and increased government expenditures. Economic growth is expected to remain high at 10.0% in 2013. The economy of Timor-Leste is very reliant on the petroleum industry as about 80% of GDP originates from that sector. The non-oil economy has also grown rapidly in recent years driven by government spending, particularly cash transfers and infrastructure spending on national electrification and road upgrades

So far, the contributions from agriculture and manufacturing have been modest, hampering employment opportunities outside of the public sector and constraining widespread growth in living standards. Under the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan, the Government has rapidly scaled up social spending and capital investment in infrastructure, which boosted domestic demand. The annual average inflation rate was at double-digits in 2011 (13.5%) and 2012 (12.0%), but was expected to decline to 8.0% in 2013.

There is currently a weak domestic production base leaving the country heavily dependent on imports. More than 85% of donor spending and at least 70% of the Government budget is spent on imports. At present, the country's major private sector export product is coffee. According to the World Bank indicator of Doing Business (2013), Timor-Leste ranked 169th (out of 185 countries). Exports and imports took about 26 days, placing it in 82nd place by the ease of trading across border. Tourism is in an embryonic state, while public services and infrastructure still need significant improvement.

Several assessments have identified three pervasive and ongoing development challenges for Timor-Leste: high youth unemployment, falling per capita incomes and increasing poverty rates in rural areas. Timor-Leste is passing through a demographic transition of unique proportions. The 2010 Census found a population total of 1,066,409. More than 750 thousand people, 71.8% of the total population, live in rural areas, and more than half the population is under the age of 20. Given the average fertility rate of 5.8 births per woman (6.5 in rural areas) and the resulting annual population growth rate of over 3.5 % per annum, the population may increase to around 1,200,000 by 2014 and may double by 2030. About 40% of the population has to survive on \$30 per month or less and large disparities between rural and urban households remain

Like many other post-conflict and fragile nations, Timor-Leste is unlikely to reach most of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015. The areas that remain particularly challenging include poverty, education and health: underweight children, primary school completion rate, maternal mortality and sanitation.

An assessment of sustainable development in Timor-Leste produced by the Ministry of Economy & Development on the run up to Rio+20 suggests that the main problems faced by the country include a stagnating oil-based economy; fragile security characterized by weakened social cohesion; high unemployment, particularly in urban areas and among young people; weak public sector and customer service focus; and a dormant indigenous private sector, with dependency on public sector contracts. The report argues that its slow economy, with high unemployment rates among young people constitutes a security risk, threatening the process of democratization and the legitimacy and construction of a viable state.

A fragility assessment of the country's development situation conducted in 2012 by the Ministry of Finance with support from development partners found that, although there has been good progress in the Security area and some good progress in the areas of Legitimate Politics and Revenue and Services, the areas of Justice and Economic Foundation are the two areas that require improvement. The assessment of the fragilities in the area of Economic Foundation focused on three dimensions: 1) economic conditions; 2) employment, livelihood and private sectors development; and 3) natural resource management. The challenges identified in each of these areas were:

#### Economic conditions

- Economic growth had not been distributed equally to all territory. People in districts had not seen any major changes in the economic activity.



- Inflation: the increase of prices in the market had jumped from 10.8% in March 2011 to 15.4% in December 2011. This was a great threat to the people with low income.

#### Employment, livelihood and private sectors development

- Lack of employment opportunity as the government remained the biggest employer.
- Lack of availability of local food in country. Some of agriculture programs were not sustainable. Large investment had been made however local food production was still low.
- Starting up a business was complicated and became more difficult, requiring many procedures, increasing time and cost needed to spend on opening a business.

#### Natural resource management

- After independence, there was no Land Law to define land title and ownership of the land. Land dispute had been very complex because of the land history from three different regimes; Portugal, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
- National technical capacity was insufficient in the oil and gas industry.

## **2. Political and security challenges**

The 2013 report from the International Crisis Group entitled "Timor-Leste: Stability at What Cost?" examines the situation following the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers in December 2012 after two successful elections that demonstrated the young country's stability. Although pragmatic decisions by local leaders after the 2006 crisis to spend their way out of conflict have worked so far, this strategy is unsustainable as revenues from the petroleum industry may start dwindling soon.

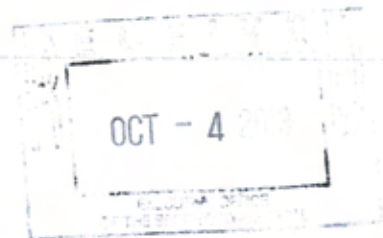
The report's major findings and recommendations are:

- Elections have centralised power in the hands of a few. Although the government and the sole opposition party have a better working relationship, parliament and the broader policy and legislative development processes remain somewhat anaemic.
- Stability has not come through institutional reforms within the security sector, whose weaknesses triggered the 2006 crisis. Policing capacity remains weak, the army's role is still not clearly defined and broader institutional arrangements providing a clearer division of labour among the state's security forces need to be formalised.
- The government needs to be more prudent about spending and ensure that investment generates long-term returns. The greatest challenge will be to make progress in providing economic opportunities without exhausting national wealth. The government will have to prioritise the search for more sustainable employment for a rapidly growing workforce, driven by one of the world's highest birth rates.
- Dili will also need to find ways to tackle the perceived growth in social inequality, produce visible results against corruption, and work with parliament and civil society in order to produce legislation and policies that enjoy a greater degree of public legitimacy.

\*\*\*\*\*



To:  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fw: SASG Report to the Secretary-General



Noeleen Heyzer

----- Original Message -----

From: Noeleen Heyzer  
Sent: 10/04/2013 07:41 PM ZET  
To: Susana Malcorra  
Subject: SASG Report to the Secretary-General

Dear Susana,

Please find enclosed my report for submission to the Secretary-General covering the first three months in my role as Special Advisor on Timor Leste. If you would also have an opportunity to review the report, I would very much appreciate your comments and guidance on the activities I have undertaken so far and propose to accomplish as outlined in the implementation plan.

With warm regards,  
Noeleen

**Noeleen Heyzer**  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations ESCAP  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
Tel: (+66 2) 288-1910  
Fax: (+66 2) 288-1051  
heyzer@un.org



TL- Report to the Secretary-General.pdf

ANNEX I

Timor Leste Development  
Partnership Meeting, 18-20  
June 2013

20130619 Dr Heyzer Timor-Leste DevPartners As Delivered.pdf



President speech- DPM 19Jun2013en.pdf PM speech- DPM June 2013.pdf



Straitstimes.pdf











The Doctor's Master Plan-INDEPENDENTE.pdf



Strait Times by Nirmal-with pic-Singaporean seeks to hel...pdf



<b>ANNEX II</b> <b>Implementation Plan</b>	<div data-bbox="885 226 933 283"></div> <div data-bbox="714 289 1128 315">1. Implementation Plan-ToR SASG.pdf</div> <div data-bbox="885 321 933 378"></div> <div data-bbox="527 384 1312 409">Extraordinary-Meeting-of-the-Council-of-Ministers-on-August-31-2013.pdf</div>
<b>ANNEX III</b> <b>SASG Speech at TL-IMF</b> <b>Harnessing Natural</b> <b>Resources Meeting, 17-19</b> <b>September</b>	<div data-bbox="885 447 917 462"></div> <div data-bbox="604 510 1234 535">20130918 Dr Heyzer IMF TimorLeste Resource Wealth.pdf</div>
<b>ANNEX IV</b> <b>Myanmar news coverage of 13</b> <b>September 2013 visit of PM</b> <b>Gusmao to Myanmar</b>	<div data-bbox="763 640 812 697"></div> <div data-bbox="1047 640 1096 697"></div> <div data-bbox="630 703 1205 728">2013-09-14 07-50 page #0.pdf 2013-09-14 07-53.pdf</div>
<b>ANNEX V</b> <b>HAK and High Commissioner</b> <b>letters</b>	<div data-bbox="633 804 682 861"></div> <div data-bbox="1047 804 1096 861"></div> <div data-bbox="495 867 1339 892">Letter to Dr Noeleen Heyzer.pdfLetter from HC to the Ambassador of Timor.pdf</div>
<b>ANNEX VI</b> <b>Situation Analysis</b>	<div data-bbox="885 903 933 959"></div> <div data-bbox="771 961 1058 987">TL - Situation Analysis.doc</div>