

City of Hobart Delegation to Timor-Leste Itinerary and Background Information

Day / Time	Activity
Monday 22 Jan	10 am Meeting with Januario Mok, Director of the East Timor Development Agency.
	12pm Dr Nitin Verma at the Dili Hospital. Tour of the East Timor Eye Program.
	2pm Australian Embassy, Dili. Meeting with Rachael Moore (Deputy Ambassador), Tracie Starkey (Counsellor for Human Development) and Daniel Woods (Counsellor).
	6pm Meeting with Rob Williams and Catharina Williams-van Klinken. Research Advisor for Seeds of Life Program and Drums on Farms and Catharina, author of the Peace Corps Tetun Language Course book.
Tuesday 23 Jan	<p>11.30am Meeting with Alzira Reis, CEO of Alola Foundation.</p> <p>12.30pm Meeting with Agora Café owners Alva Lim and Mark Notaras.</p> <p>14.30 Tour of community recycling system on the outskirts of Dili.</p>
Wednesday 24 Jan	<p>9am –Meeting with Director General of Urban Organisation, Miguel de Carvalho - waste management at the municipal level. Accompanied by Nina Pinto (Ministry of State Administration).</p> <p>11.30am - Travel to Balibó via Maliana.</p> <p>5pm – Meeting with President of Bobonaro District (Zeferino Soares dos Santos), Alfredo Martins Head of Sanitation Bobonaro, interpreter Nina Pinto (Ministry of State Administration).</p>
Thursday 25 Jan	<p>09.30am Meeting with Balibó community.</p> <p>President of Bobonaro District, Sub-District Administrator, Chief of the Village of Balibó, Balibó Sub-District Police Commandant, Program Manager at Balibó Dental Clinic, Fort Hotel Manager, Interpreter from the Timor-Leste Consulate in Canberra, representatives of the Timor-Leste Friendship Network</p>

	<p>(Tasmania), City of Hobart and 8 other invited community members.</p> <p>Afternoon: Tour of Balibó including doctor's surgery and maternity ward, local accommodation, Balibo Five House, church, school playing fields, food market area and the site where new school will be built by Rotary and the Balibo House Trust.</p>
Friday 26 Jan	<p>08.00am Depart Balibó</p> <p>2.30pm Meeting with Mr Claudio Providas, United Nations Development Programme Country Director.</p> <p>4pm –Meeting with Director General of Administrative Decentralisation, Abilio Caetano - responsible for local government systems. Accompanied by Nina Pinto (Ministry of State Administration).</p>

Background Information

1. The East Timor Development Agency is an independent not for profit NGO with the following mission:

“To strengthen the capacity of East Timorese people to play an integral active and coordinated role in development of Timor-Leste through training and job placement.”

Training areas include IT literacy, cooking, hospitality basics, English language and financial management.

The goals of the organisation are:

- To strengthen the capacity for East Timorese people to seek, find and keep employment through training.
- To bridge the gap between job-seekers and employers.
- To assist in the capacity building of other organisations through the delivery of professional, dynamic and up-to-date training.
- To link the resources of local institutions through advising and training.
- To offer local and international organisations high standard business facilities and translation and research services.
- To foster the potential of East Timorese children through the Oan Kiak Orphan Scholarship Fund.
- To generate income with the aim of being a sustainable local NGO, independent of political or religious affiliation.
- To develop and produce resources for the benefit of individuals and organisations.

Website: www.etda.tl

2. Meeting with Rachel Moore (a/g Deputy Ambassador), Tracie Starkey – Counsellor for Human Development, Daniel Woods, Counsellor at the Australian Embassy.

The Australian Government has three strategic objectives for Timor-Leste:

Objective 1: Improving livelihoods:

Projects areas include:

- Building the capacity of targeted rural households to engage in profitable agricultural markets and establish a foundation of food security and good nutrition to help address Timor-Leste's high rates of malnutrition.
- Roads for Development: \$36 million, 2012-2016 and Phase II up to \$26 million, 2017-2020 to rehabilitate and maintain rural roads enabling communities access to health centres, schools and markets.

Objective 2: Enhancing human development

Projects areas include:

- Professional learning and mentoring program to improve teacher quality: Tailored training for school leaders, backed up by regular classroom observation and in-classroom mentoring of teachers by international and national mentors.
- Midwife training: To ensure safe births and quality postnatal care for women.
- Health Ambulance and Transport Project: Operates across Timor-Leste with almost 100 ambulances and multi-functional vehicles delivering lifesaving transport to patients 35% of which are pregnant mothers experiencing complications.

Objective 3: Strengthening governance and institutions

Projects areas include:

- Governance for Development Program: Provision of advisory services to Timor-Leste government institutions to improve policy and practice regarding financial management, other systems impacting on service delivery and economic policy making.

3. Research Advisor for Seeds of Life – Rob Williams and Catharina Williams-van Klinken.

Mr Rob Williams, an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at University of Western Australia, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on the Queen's Birthday in June, 2012.

Rob has dedicated himself to the agricultural development of Timor-Leste for the past 16 years (2002-2018) having been the research advisor on the 'Seeds of Life Project' funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The Seeds of Life project was developed with the goals of improving food security for East Timor through the introduction, testing and distribution to farmers of improved germplasm of the major food crops enhancing the capacity of the Timorese scientists to independently develop and manage crop improvement for village farmers.

Rob graduated from the University of Queensland with a Masters of Agricultural Science in 1990. He gained his first professional working experience in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. This was followed by 12 years of solving on-farm problems through research and extension in the rice growing areas of New South Wales. During that period, Rob developed an effective and successful rice agronomy/physiology program to optimise rice crop yields.

Rob and his wife, Dr. Catharina Williams-van Klinken departed for Timor-Leste in September, 2002. Their plan was to live in Timor-Leste for 20 years and contribute where they could.

Dr Williams-van Klinken works at the Dili Institute of Technology as a linguist, overseeing the Tetun, English and Portuguese Departments. Her main initiatives have been developing a year-long course in Tetun writing skills for Timorese tertiary students and setting up a Tetun language training centre for foreigners and overseeing the transition from Indonesian to Tetun and English as the languages of instruction. Catharina wrote the 'Tetun Language Course' for the Peace Corps which is a useful guide to the Tetun language and local customs.

Rob learned to speak the local language fluently and communicates extremely well with local farmers and researchers alike.

Rob is a recognised mentor for agricultural development in Timor-Leste. Skills development by Seeds of Life within the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been excellent and penetration of technology into farmer's fields outstanding.

On-farm trials of Seeds of Life-Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries released varieties indicate a yield advantage over local varieties in excess of 47 per cent for maize, 47 per cent for peanuts, 150 per cent for sweet potatoes and 24 per cent for rice. It is also estimated that 18,000 or 15 per cent of farmers in Timor-Leste are growing one or more Seed of Life varieties.

Many are now, for the first time in their lives, making money from the sale of farm produce and use the proceeds for the purchase of other consumables, medicines and for education of their children.

The long term Seeds of Life plan is for technology development to be completely owned and operated by Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries personnel. Rob was strongly cognisant of this and ensured that researchers, agricultural extension personnel and farmers were well versed on relevant approaches to ensure technologies are not only developed but productively adopted by farmers. This project was handed over in 2016.

4. CEO of Alola Foundation – Ms. Alzira Reis

Fundasaun Alola is a not for profit non-government organization operating in Timor-Leste to improve the lives of women and children. Founded in 2001 by Former First Lady, Ms Kirsty Sword Gusmao, the organization seeks to nurture women leaders and advocate for the rights of women.

Fundasaun Alola was originally created to raise awareness of the widespread sexual violence against women and girls in Timor-Leste during the militia attacks of September 1999. Though this is still a key issue for Fundasaun Alola, today they also provide a wide range of vitally important support programs for the women and children of Timor-Leste.

Working with community groups and individuals, their programs aim to improve maternal and child health, create employment, promote human rights, strengthen community development, and improve the status of women. Now employing over 100 staff, Alola is committed to developing strong women who will be the leaders of the future in Timor-Leste. All Alola programs support the Government of Timor-Leste to achieve the National Development Goals.

There are four key program areas:

- **Maternal and Child Health Program:**
Distributing maternity packs, breastfeeding promotion and advice and infant and young child feeding advice.
- **Education and literacy:**

Examples of projects are the two mobile libraries that deliver early years literacy around Dili and AusAID scholarships that support girls to go to senior high school. These scholarships are available in every district of Timor-Leste.

- **Advocacy:**
Through the Women's Resource Centre established in 2003 as a place to distribute information on gender based violence, maternal and child health etc.
- **Economic Development:**
Provides women with the opportunities to participate in economic life through projects such as 'handicraft development' and tourism community based accommodation.

5. Café Agora

Mark Notaras and Alva Lim first came to Timor-Leste working for an NGO. The ethos of their social enterprise, the Agora Food Studio (Dili) is:

"Food should be good, clean and fair for producers, eaters and the environment...."

They mentor 16 Timorese youths to:

"...manage an unconventional restaurant. We ask that they think differently. To not be restricted by standard menus and restaurant formats. To be guided by the equatorial seasons and the knowledge of their ancestors..."

Alva and Mark have been challenging gender stereotypes by employing men to work in their kitchen as well as women. They have also been teaching the Timorese that visitors that visitors to their country want to eat local food, not necessarily their take on western food. They have been teaching their employees critical thinking, English language, basic maths, customer service and a range of other skills.

6. Community Recycling System

This is an NGO created and managed by youth (Timorese University students) who developed a recycling business providing cash for work as an additional means of livelihood for community members who collect plastic bottles. The plastic bottles are flaked and then parcelled up.

110 permanent and temporary jobs for youth were created and at least 987 local community members received average income of US\$33 throughout the four weekly collection campaigns. By end of 2014, more than 3 million plastic bottles from the streets and households were collected for recycling and 3 million more were slated for collection by the project's end by end of 2015.

The organisation is working to develop international markets for the plastic bottles.

7. Director General of Urban Organisation – Miguel de Carvalho

Miguel leads the department in the central government, responsible for policies relating to solid waste management, parks, parking and publicity. Responsibilities relating to waste include road sweeping, waste collection, managing the Tibar tip and looking at the feasibility of recycling.

- 8. President of Bobonaro District (Zeferino Soares dos Santos), Alfredo Martins (Head of Sanitation for the Bobonaro District) and Ms. Nina Pinto (Ministry of State Administration and interpreter).**

President Zeferino is appointed by the central government to run the Bobonaro District (around 100,000 people). With the central government's commitment to decentralisation came the development of two financial mechanisms for facilitating this in the 13 districts. For Bobonaro, these are overseen by President Zeferino.

These are the PDID program (*Planeamento Desenvolvimento Integrado Distrital*, Integrated District Development Planning) and the PNDS program (*Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suku*, National Program for Village Development).

The PDID has been the main mechanism for enabling district governments to gain experience in planning and procurement. Since 2012, PDID and its predecessor program PDD have been allocated a total US\$193.7 million for small-scale infrastructure development in Timor-Leste's 13 districts. That's an average of only around US\$5 million annually per district. With PDD, money goes straight from the national to village level, with district-level government only playing a technical support role.

The PNDS is modelled on Indonesia's PNPM program, which gives grants directly to communities for high-priority, small-scale infrastructure projects. While it's still early days, PNDS has so far been praised for its success in improving physical infrastructure and village-level planning. The PNDS has limitations. It does not directly boost local production and it is not a big enough fund to provide major infrastructure. It can refurbish schools and health posts but it cannot provide for ongoing costs.

Alfredo Martins (Head of Sanitation for the Bobonaro District) manages the waste of the nearly 100,000 residents and the local tip.

9. Community meeting in Balibó

Attended by the President of Bobonaro District, Sub-District Administrator of Balibó, Chief of the Village of Balibó, Balibó Sub-District Police Commandant, Program Manager at Balibó Dental Clinic, Fort Hotel Manager, Interpreter from the Timor Consulate in Canberra, representatives of the Timor-Leste Friendship Network (Eoin and Sue Breen), City of Hobart and 8 other invited community members.

10. Country Director – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Mr Claudio Providas and Felisberta Da Silva -Programme Analyst and Sustainable Development Team Leader

Since 1999, UNDP has been supporting the Timorese people move from post-conflict recovery towards sustainable development. UNDP's Country Programme Action Plan (2015-2019), developed in partnership with and approved by the Timor-Leste government, aims to build the foundations for lasting peace, resilience to climate induced natural disaster, and poverty reduction.

The programme of interventions is divided into three outcome areas:

- Resilience Building – Social Sector.
This includes projects aiming at improving social protection and cohesion, disaster and climate risk policies and preparedness and response to natural hazards.
- Sustainable Development – Economic Sector.

This includes projects aiming at improving job and livelihood creation, sustainable management of natural resources, scale-up action on climate change and renewable energy.

- Governance and Institutional Strengthening.
Projects to improve the 'rule of law' – Justice sector and the police, public sector oversight and transparency, de-concentration and decentralisation, citizen's voice and elections.

11. Abilio Caetano – Director General of Administrative Decentralisation and Ms. Nina Pinto (Ministry of State Administration and interpreter).

Abilio is responsible for the implementing de-centralisation of government which was made a constitutional mandate in 2003.