



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 · (632) 929-62-52
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denrgov.ph

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Climate Change Service

FROM : The Undersecretary
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY FACT (ASCC) FINDING MISSION TO TIMOR LESTE ON 6-8 JULY 2022, HELD IN DILI, TIMOR LESTE**

DATE : **AUG 31 2022**

This refers to the Summary Record of the ASCC fact finding mission to Timor Leste held last 6-8 July 2022 in Dili, Timor Leste emailed by Ms. Natalia Derodofa of the ASEAN Secretariat.

In this regard, we would like to provide your offices with a copy of the Summary Record and relevant annexes. It may be of interest to your bureaus and respective ASEAN working groups in evaluating Timor Leste's application as a member of ASEAN in terms of their initiatives on biodiversity conservation, protected areas, forestry, haze pollution, plastic waste, marine environment, climate change, management of wastewater, among others. Please note we have already sent an advance copy of the documents to your emails.

For your information and reference.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

**SUMMARY RECORD OF
THE ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY
FACT-FINDING MISSION (ASCC FFM) TO TIMOR-LESTE
6-8 JULY 2022, DILI, TIMOR-LESTE**

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The ASCC FFM was conducted to assess Timor-Leste's readiness to be a member of ASEAN from the perspective of ASCC by obtaining first-hand information and direct observation. It was an opportunity for ASEAN Member States to validate the information provided by Timor-Leste at the virtual interfaces held in 2020 and 2021 and from the completed ASCC-FFM questionnaire. Given the information already available, the ASCC FFM focused primarily on-site visits and interface with indicative key sectors of Timor-Leste for ASCC.
2. The ASEAN delegation comprised of leaders or representatives of the Senior Officials Committee for ASCC (SOCA) from all ASEAN Member States, chairs or representatives from ASCC sectoral bodies notably SOMRI, SOMCA, SOMS, SLOM, SOM-ED, SOMHD, SOMSWD, ACDM, and ASOEN, representatives from the Permanent Missions of ASEAN Member States to ASEAN, the Representatives of ASEAN Member States Embassies in Timor-Leste, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of delegates and programme appear as **ANNEXES 1-2**, respectively. The FFM was co-organized by Cambodia, Timor-Leste as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Dy Khamboly, SOCA Chair.

**B. ASEAN COORDINATION MEETING AND BRIEFING BY TIMOR-LESTE,
6 JULY 2022**

3. In his remarks, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASCC, H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong, thanked the Government of Timor-Leste, Chair and Leaders of SOCA, Chairs of ASCC sectoral bodies, and all delegates from ASEAN for their presence and support in the ASCC FFM. He highlighted that the main objective of the ASCC fact-finding mission, as indicated in its Terms of Reference, is to assess Timor-Leste's readiness to be a member of ASEAN from the perspective of ASCC, by obtaining first-hand information and direct observation, including (i) to verify Timor-Leste's compliance and readiness with respect to ASCC commitments, by reviewing relevant national policies, regulations, processes and initiatives, as well as to be informed of Timor-Leste's plans, objectives and principles towards ASEAN membership; (ii) to enhance Timor-Leste's appreciation, understanding and awareness regarding ASEAN's norms and values as well as obligations and responsibilities once it becomes an ASEAN Member State; (iii) to review capacities and competencies of Timor-Leste's institutions and resources to meet ASEAN goals and ASCC commitments, as well as the abilities and capabilities to carry out commitments of being an ASEAN Member State; (iv) to discuss potential opportunities and challenges in implementing major ASEAN instruments and

ASCC commitments; and (v) to identify capacity building and technical assistance needed for Timor-Leste's membership.

4. Ms. Rodora T. Babaran, Director of Human Development Directorate of ASEAN Secretariat presented the programme of activities of the ASCC FFM, group assignment of delegates for the site visits, and list of institutions to be visited. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 3**. The Meeting shared views as follows:
 - Considering the presence of local media who will cover the ASCC FFM, the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN secretariat shared the view that SOCA Cambodia as Head of ASEAN Delegation may wish to convey the objective of this mission and factual information about the ASCC FFM to the local media, if necessary and without prejudice to ASEAN's consideration of Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership application. As for other ASEAN Member States delegates who might be approached for an interview by the local media, they may exercise discretion to grant the request.
 - Some delegates requested flexibility in the group assignment for site visits, in order to cater to the interest of delegates coming from different sectoral bodies and to distribute country delegations across the groups.
5. H.E. Dr. Dy Khamboly, SOCA Chair and Head of the ASEAN delegation expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Timor-Leste and the ASEAN Secretariat for the excellent preparation for the FFM. He also thanked all SOCA Leaders and Chairs and representatives of ASCC Sectoral Bodies and all delegates for their participation in this important mission. He urged the delegates to make critical observation and notation during the site visits, ensuring that all necessary information was obtained to enhance the ASCC assessment report. He hoped that the ASCC-related technical procedure of the FFM could be completed under Cambodia Chairmanship in 2022.
6. Ms. Elisa da Silva, Director for ASEAN Political and Security Community, Directorate General of ASEAN Affairs, and Mr. Pedro Laranjeira, Director for ASEAN Sociocultural Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, briefed the delegates on the business arrangement, protocol, and logistical matters. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 4**.

C. MEETING WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION, 7 JULY 2022

7. In his welcome remarks, H.E. Juliao da Silva, Vice-Minister and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste welcomed ASEAN Member States' delegations to the country for the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM). He acknowledged the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and applauded ASEAN for its coordinated responses under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. He highlighted the strategic importance for Timor-Leste to become a member of ASEAN based on the consideration of geographical proximity, socio-cultural similarities and shared values of Timor-Leste with those of ASEAN. He shared about the significant milestones achieved following Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership including the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Fact-Finding Mission in 2019, the Virtual Interface of Timor-Leste with ASCC in

2020 and 2021, and Timor-Leste's participation in some of the non-policy making activities across the three pillars. He further highlighted that the FFM would allow SOCA Leaders and sectoral bodies' representatives to obtain relevant information from national stakeholders of Timor-Leste on the preparation for accession to ASEAN. He expressed confidence on the positive outcome of the FFMs this year leading towards clear timelines on the next steps.

8. In his remarks, Dr. Dy Khamboly, Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Chair of SOCA, expressed appreciation to Timor-Leste for the warm welcome and hospitality. He noted that ASEAN had taken progressive actions since 2011 to facilitate Timor-Leste's application to be a member of ASEAN. Activities had been taken in the consideration process of the application including those under the ASCC pillar, notably in the sectors of rural development and poverty eradication, social welfare, disaster management, civil service and labour, among others. Although the pandemic had caused postponement of the ASCC FFM, the Virtual Interfaces were conducted virtually in 2020 and 2021 and Timor-Leste was invited to various ASEAN activities for capacity building. He assured that the ASCC pillar considered this FFM as a high priority in the application process of Timor-Leste including through the wide participation of the SOCA Leaders, representatives of ASCC sectoral bodies and Permanent Missions of ASEAN Member States to ASEAN. He acknowledged the FFM as an opportunity for interactions with Timor-Leste's stakeholders and observation on relevant programmes and initiatives to support readiness of Timor-Leste to be a member of ASEAN. He expressed the hope of Cambodia that the process of accession to ASEAN could be completed in 2022. Timor-Leste had been invited to ASEAN activities. He informed that Cambodian delegation arrived two days ahead of the FFM to visit selected educational institutions in Timor-Leste and witnessed the impressive development in education in the country.
9. Ms. Milena Rangel, Director General for ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, delivered a presentation on Timor-Leste's foreign policy and efforts to foster development cooperation in Southeast Asia. She highlighted the milestones of Timor-Leste's application of ASEAN membership since 2011. ASEAN membership is part of Timor-Leste's foreign policy priorities and strategic objective as stipulated in the Timor-Leste Constitution's Section 8 Article 14, Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030, National Strategic Concept for Defence and Security 2017, and Law of Major Options of Plan 2/2022. Fully-accredited missions were established in the capitals of all ASEAN Member States and missions in eight ASEAN Dialogue Partners (Australia, People's Republic of China, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States). As result of the establishment of these missions and embassies, Timor-Leste has the capacity to effectively communicate with ASEAN Members States and ASEAN Dialogue Partners. She further highlighted that Timor-Leste's roles in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), G-7+, and reformation of the UN Security Council on Peacekeeping Operations would provide opportunities for Timor-Leste's contribution in promoting ASEAN in those platforms.

10. Ms. Rangel shared views that integration into ASEAN would provide substantial opportunities for Timor-Leste's cooperation and contribution to socio-cultural cohesion of the region particularly in the sectors of i) health, including on food security in relation to malnutrition; ii) education, including on promotion of lifelong learning, quality education to meet labour market needs, and inclusive access to education for all especially for the vulnerable groups; iii) environment, including on response to climate change, global warming and transboundary haze; iv) labour, including on promotion of labour force competitiveness and productivity, development of national qualifications, standardisation of national training providers and trainers, decent work for all and adequate social protection for workers; and v) disaster management and humanitarian assistance, including with the AHA Centre. She expressed readiness of Timor-Leste to build cooperation with and learn from ASEAN in other areas of youth, sports, women's rights and gender equality, child rights, social welfare, rural development and poverty eradication, and civil service. Proper mechanisms for financing the deepening of partnerships with ASEAN and supporting innovations had been set up. She shared the great strides of Timor-Leste by setting up ministries' technical working groups which had facilitated their preparedness across the board, including the alignment of new legal instruments of Timor-Leste with ASEAN standards. She highlighted the challenges in the process particularly on the unavailability of an ASCC roadmap and timeline of its accession to ASEAN. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 5**.

11. The Meeting noted the responses of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat, as follows:

- a) SOCA Leader of Viet Nam underlined that there are more than 900 activities to implement the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and up to 150 projects and activities in the 5-year sectoral work plans. Noting the limitation of human resources in Timor-Leste, she cautioned on the potential challenge in attending many ASEAN meetings and activities, albeit ASEAN's efforts to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings and shift to virtual meetings during the pandemic.
- b) SOCA Leader of Indonesia expressed appreciation to Timor-Leste for the warm hospitality and comprehensive information sharing by the Ministry. Indonesia acknowledged Timor-Leste as part of the Southeast Asian region and, thus, its accession to ASEAN would be important to address social challenges and enhance well-being of peoples of ASEAN and Timor-Leste. Indonesia expressed its interest to learn more about the situation in Timor-Leste during the FFM.
- c) SOCA Chair shared Cambodia's experience in acceding to ASEAN in 1999 and assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2002, 2012 and 2022. In spite of the limited resources, Cambodia assumed the role successfully and learned some lessons along the way. Noting the strategies of Timor-Leste to promote lifelong learning, he enquired on the extent to which those strategies had been made aligned with SDG-4, ASEAN Education Work Plan and ASCC Blueprint 2025 towards inclusive, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning for all.

- d) Representative SOCA Leader of Brunei Darussalam welcomed the opportunities for cooperation between Timor-Leste and ASEAN especially in fostering mutual understanding and harmonious relations in the region which could be pursued through cooperation on youth, culture and arts. The timeline of Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN should also take into consideration on the elements of the post-2025 ASEAN Vision's timeline, which is currently discussed by the High-Level Task Force.
- e) SOCA Leader of Singapore shared that the completion of the FFM of APSC, ASCC and AEC would enable a comprehensive assessment of Timor-Leste's application and deliberation on the next steps. In the meantime, Singapore welcomed the participation of Timor-Leste in ASEAN's capacity building activities. He also expressed Singapore's commitment to assist Timor-Leste in meeting its goal through Singapore's capacity building programme.
- f) The ASEAN Secretariat expressed sincere appreciation to Timor-Leste for the warm welcome and excellent arrangement of the Fact-Finding Mission. ASEAN Secretariat commended Timor-Leste for the various efforts taken to join ASEAN. ASEAN Secretariat encouraged closer cooperation, coordination and communications of Timor-Leste with the CPR, ASEAN Departments of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Member States, and all ASCC Sectoral Bodies. The engagements with the Embassies/Missions of ASEAN Member States in Timor-Leste, collectively, could also be leveraged. The FFM was regarded as an opportunity to exchange views, learn from Timor-Leste, and identify capacity building needs pertaining to Timor-Leste's application of ASEAN membership.
- g) Timor-Leste welcomed further exchange of views with local stakeholders on the queries of ASEAN Member States during the site visits on 7-8 July 2022. The Ministry of Education of Timor-Leste shared information that education and human development is one of the 12 pillars of cooperation as stipulated in the country's Constitution. Timor-Leste would share the English version of its Constitution with ASEAN after the translation process is completed.

D. MEETING WITH THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION (COUNTERPART OF ASCC MINISTER), 7 JULY 2022

12. In her welcome remarks, H.E. Signi Chandrawati Verdial, Vice Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) of Timor-Leste welcomed ASEAN Member States' delegations to the country for the FFM. In her remarks, she stated that Timor-Leste is a democratic country upholding the principles of unity, democracy, human rights, and freedom. She added that it was listed in the Constitution that Timor-Leste shall maintain friendship and cooperation with neighbouring country and hence Timor-Leste is ready and willing to be part of the ASEAN. She informed that Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste now has an ASEAN Department. She added that ASEAN Member States investing in the country include Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Singapore, with the latter being one of the big investors totalling USD 2 billion. Timor-Leste collaborates with 20 different international and regional organisations including the United Nations, Asian Development Bank, International

Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and Community of Portuguese-speaking countries. The country respects the principles of diversity, rights and freedom and had ratified 8 out of 9 international treaties and with the ratification of the Convention of Rights of People with Disabilities just approved by the parliament. She explained that the state budget on social-cultural matters had changed significantly from investment on infrastructure to investment on people (poverty, education, health) particularly since 2001. The 8th Constitutional Government had approved allocation of USD 50 per month per family for vulnerable groups, over USD 65 million has been provided for COVID-19 recovery and USD 70 million this year for 324,000 disadvantaged households. She mentioned the conditional subsidy programme of *Bolsa Damãe* in which USD 26 million were provided to students from poor families, expecting mothers and their children, to fight maternal mortality and infant mortality rates, stunting, and malnutrition. Recently, over USD 100 million was provided for COVID-19 response, in which USD 19 million was allocated for the Ministry of Social Solidarity's *Bolsa Damãe* programme. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 6**.

13. Mr. João Coimbra, Director of Cooperation and Partnership, MSSI, presented the development of socio-cultural sectors in Timor-Leste. He described 1) socio-culture overview of Timor-Leste, including HDI level, poverty, economic growth, budget, 2) Vision by 2030, 3) alignment with global goals: SDGs, 4) rank of Timor-Leste on political empowerment, domestic violence, and 4) proposal for Timor-Leste related ministries and proposed ASCC sectoral bodies and the corresponding Timor-Leste ministries.
14. On Timor-Leste's socio-economic setting, he described that the country had a medium HDI in 2020, with 26.71% of the 1.36 million population were living in extreme poverty in 2022. There are 32 dialects, however, the majority of the population speak the official language of Tetum, with a lesser number speak official language of Portuguese. Indonesian/Malay and English are also used by some of the population as their working language. The GDP contracted -8.6% in 2020 due to pandemic and natural disasters in 2020 and 2021, the growth expected to be 2.7% in 2022. He added that the state budget was around USD 3.4 Billion (from petroleum fund) and the country targeted to be a high-middle income country by 2030. He added that Timor-Leste has a 30% quota for female parliamentarians, with the current 2019-2023 legislature exceeding this quota with 40% of parliamentarians being female. He explained the proposed institutional setup of the line ministries to act as the ASCC sectoral bodies' focal points. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 7**.
15. The Meeting noted the responses of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat, as follows:
 - a. SOCA alternate leader of Indonesia requested clarification on sustainability of social protection for vulnerable groups. Indonesia considered Timor-Leste as being generous in providing social protection programmes, including the *Bolsa Damãe* (cash transfer of USD 50 per family per month and additional of USD 20 when a baby is born), universal health coverage, cash transfer for elderly, social assistance of USD 30 for families with children born with disability. Indonesia further asked about cooperation with

international development agencies and their alignment with national plan. Timor-Leste clarified that policy guidance documents were shared with development partners to align with national priorities.

- b. SOCA Leader of Viet Nam asked the root causes why 57% of Timorese women experienced domestic violence over their lifetime, and strategies to address and prevent gender-based and domestic violence in the future. The Vice Minister responded that Timor-Leste is a patriarchal society where men are considered to be of a higher stature than women. A study in Timor-Leste reported that 53% of respondents accepted that men could beat their wives and 74% respondents accepted it if the wife made simple mistake. In a broader term, the country's past experience of conflict and household poverty may have contributed to the domestic violence prevalence. The Vice Minister informed about the Safe Housing Programme/*Uma Mamahon* by which USD 1.5-2 million were given to CSOs working with vulnerable women/victims of domestic violence. Based on the Policy Note on gender-responsive budgeting, 12.1 % of the 2021 state budget and 52 out of the 98 government institutions applied gender equality and social inclusion consideration in the budget. In addition, there were external supports to violence against women prevention programmes notably USD 50 Million from the EU, USD 7 million from ROK, and USD 32 million from DFAT Australia.
- c. SOCA Leader of Viet Nam asked about the English proficiency level and education requirement for students. The Ministry of Education clarified that the school curriculum of Timor-Leste was developed in 2005, after separation from Indonesia. Tetum and Portuguese languages are taught at grades 1-5 and as non-compulsory subjects at Grades 4-5, and English language is compulsory for grades 7-12. On the question related to application of ICT on education, human resource development and Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Ministry responded that the government recently signed a fibre optic agreement with the Government of Australia and expected that Timor-Leste will have better internet infrastructure soon.

16. The SOCA Chair noted in his final remarks that Timor-Leste targeted to be a high middle income country by 2030 and to achieve the SDGs. He took note of the challenges of domestic violence, poverty, women empowerment, among others, and wished for positive prospect of Timor-Leste's application to be a member of ASEAN. He appreciated Timor-Leste's proposal on the institutional arrangement for government agencies to act as the ASCC counterparts, and its early preparation. He also suggested re-arrangement of two counterpart sectoral bodies, namely SOMRI and SLOM, to create more effective coordination between AMS and Timor-Leste.

17. The ASEAN Secretariat summarised the discussion, highlighting presentation of progress achieved so far, alignment with regional and global agenda, major issues faced by Timor-Leste, progress of different indices and ranking, government's response and funding, proposal for the institutional setup for ASCC coordination, and plans for ways forward.

E. SITE VISITS AND INTERFACES

GROUP 1

18. Group 1 consisted of representatives from the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Timor-Leste; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Cambodia; Ministry of Information, Cambodia; Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia; Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, Indonesia; Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR; Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to ASEAN; Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar; Embassy of the Philippines to Timor-Leste; Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore; Singapore Civil Defence Force; Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Viet Nam; and the ASEAN Secretariat.

INTERFACE WITH THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION, 7 JULY 2022

19. The first meeting was with the Office of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Social Communication (MPASC), led by Secretary of State for Communication Mericio Juvinal dos Reis "Akara". The Secretary of State informed the ranking by World Press Freedom Ranking by which Timor-Leste is 17th out of 180 countries, which resulted from the Constitution which guarantees freedom of press and expression, and the implementation of Communication Law. Currently, there is no law criminalizing the creation of disinformation, instead, all disputes pertaining to journalists and workers are resolved under Timor-Leste's communication laws. The legal basis for social communication is the Social Communication Law 5/2014 and Timor-Leste Journalist Code of Ethics. He highlighted issues on digital platforms, particular hoax, and abuse of freedoms of expression by netizens. It may destabilise situations and unity which the government needs to deal with. The government has no intention to block online platforms and over the last 2 years has implemented a national campaign against hoaxes and the promotion of healthy internet use. The government implements programs to prepare communities to use digital platforms in a beneficial way, including reaching rural areas, and improving students' digital literacy. He explained that while the Timor-Leste population is around 1 million, there are around 2 million points of access to the Internet, mostly due to 1 smartphone with 2 sim cards.

20. Mr. Ponciano Da Cruz, Director-General (DG) of the MPASC presented the profile and organisational chart of the Ministry which was established under law 42/2020. This includes 2 directorate generals on dissemination of information, promotion and development of local media, as well as the Training Centre, Inspection Office, and 34 staff within *Rádio e Televisão de Timor-Leste* (RTTL), the national radio and television broadcaster, and Tatoli, the official state-run news agency. The Priority programs included i) Freedom of expression and access to information (Dissemination of government information, Diversification of data) and ii) Good

governance and institutional management. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 8**.

21. Timor-Leste explained main Radio activities namely i) *Naroman Ba Suku*: Disseminate information in villages and remote areas, information centre in rural villages, community dialogues (to bring government closer to community), ii) Community Radio Program (education, agriculture, health, economy) (talk shows, drama, entertainment, news) from 23 radio stations, 17 of which are supported by governments, iii) Combating hoaxes (direct campaign, materials, long march, videos, talk show, database, awareness on negative impact). She added that cooperation took place with Indonesian media: RRI TVRI, Media: TV One, Kompas TV, and internationally with BBC, aNc Media, UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID, AUSAid, ADB, WB, as well as with Community leaders.
22. In the discussion, SOCA Chair, Dr Dy Kamboly, congratulated the rank in Freedom of Expression, the number of internet users and smartphone usage, recognised the impact of digital technology, and highlighted the 23 radio and 5 tv stations which is high number for Timor-Leste's population.

SITE VISIT TO COMMUNITY RADIO 94 FM, 7 JULY 2022

23. The second visit was to the Community Radio 94 FM, funded by the Government. The Radio program is aired 12 hours per day 7 days a week. They highlighted the role of the Community Radio during Covid-19 lockdown to ensure community compliance with government guidance.

SITE VISIT TO NATIONAL MEDIA GROUP (GMN), 7 JULY 2022

24. The visit was received by Mr. Jorge Serrano, President of GMN. The group is in its fifth year, with a vision of "Bringing Timor to the world" to Timorese people living abroad particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, enabling them to be informed of development in Timor-Leste. The media is broadcast through satellite reaching the Asia-Pacific, and TV with antenna terrestrially, and is developing an application. It is delivered in Tetum and Portuguese. There is a news report on ASEAN delivered in English done twice a week. The MNC president expressed that the media has a crucial role in strengthening rights and democracy in addition to creating employment opportunities and building infrastructure.
25. SOCA Chair, Dr Dy Kamboly, expressed that the facility is very impressive, with varieties of programs developed, delivered in fast and reliable way, information for the people, and private sector contribution to the country.

INTERFACE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT UNDER THE COORDINATING MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, 8 JULY 2022

26. Mr. Demetrio do Amaral de Carvalho, Secretary of State for the Environment under the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs opened the meeting. He briefly

touched upon Timor-Leste's hope to invest more in the forestry and its aim to be a carbon-neutral country. He added that under the ministry of agriculture, Timor-Leste has declared 44 protected areas including 2 National Parks (Nino Konis Santa and Kayrala Xanana Gusmao) and 1 Botanical Garden, Francisco Xavier Amaral. There is, however, an issue related to the crocodile population swimming near the beaches. On marine quality, he mentioned Timor-Leste's achievements on plastic policy, including laws combating plastic, and ban of importation of certain types of plastic. These achievements are complemented with the banning of styrofoam and food containers, single-use plastic bags, and the phasing-out of plastic-associated products. On international and regional cooperation, Timor-Leste is involved in the negotiation process of the international framework on plastic pollution. It is also part of the Coral Triangle Initiative. In the future, it wants to increase cooperation in the Coral Triangle region with the aim of becoming plastic-neutral region, combatting wastage, increasing tourism, and protecting marine ecosystem.

27. Director-General Mr. Joao C. Soares gave a detailed presentation on the work of the Ministry. There are 2 main programs, 22 activities, 19 action plans, and a USD 2.8 million state budget. Timor-Leste supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international environment- and climate-related frameworks by ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement, the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Kyoto Protocol. It is part of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and has National Adaptation Plan (NAP). It has been involved in UNFCCC negotiations starting in 2007 as part of Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group (AHWG), Conference of Parties (COP)/Meetings of Parties (MOP), and has been an ambassador for climate change. On activities related to biodiversity, Timor-Leste has National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) program on Nagoya Protocol, conservation of coral reefs, and mapping of biodiversity resources and wetlands. On pollution control, it has developed legal framework and equipment to control pollution, and Decree for Pollution Control and Plastic Pollution. It has a national designated entity to handle matters on climate finance and act as clean development mechanism. It has received a total grant of over USD 55 million from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as from Global Environment Facility (GEF) to ensure Timor-Leste's implementation of the Rio Convention. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 9**.

28. Dr San Oo, Chair of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN), inquired about policies related to conservation of biological diversity and licensing of environmental consultants. Timor-Leste explained that it has ratified UNCBD, and has a decree on biodiversity. It also shared the development of processes for consultancy licensing. Singapore delegate asked about on behalf of ASOEN Singapore (i) policies related to transboundary haze pollution, and whether Timor-Leste has reviewed the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and what would be the plan to ratify the Agreement, (ii) the plan for

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and policy for Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS), (iii) management of wastewater, policy for circular economy, and (iv) what capacity building activities Timor-Leste required. Timor-Leste responded that it planned to submit its NDC revision, which was delayed since last year due to COVID-19, after wide consultation this year. On LEDS, Timor-Leste is considered an LDC and there is no obligation to do this. In its NDC, Timor-Leste reports the country status, adaptation actions, capacity building. Timor-Leste is actively taking part in the negotiations on the issues of Loss and Damage and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. On management of transboundary pollution, Timor-Leste shared borders with Indonesia, in addition to a shared river upstream with West Timor (Nusa Tenggara Timor Province of Indonesia), where a project with FAO and Indonesia is ongoing. In the future, Timor-Leste will discuss options with Indonesia to explore access to Green Climate Fund (GCF) for climate change adaptation (CCA) in the border area (Atambua-Belu-Nusa Tenggara Timor).

INTERFACE WITH THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FORESTRY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, 8 JULY 2022

29. The delegation from Timor-Leste was represented by DG of International Cooperation Mr. Raimundo Mau, Directorate for Forestry, Coffee, and Industrial Plantation. The DG explained that the mandate on forestry covers matters on transboundary catchment and community forestry development. The forestry directorate has 150 staff, 14 municipal offices, 180 staff, 2 nursery centres, 3 municipal nursery, 40 community nursery, 150 forest rangers. 35% of rangers are women, 60% are young foresters, and 40% hold undergraduate or masters qualifications in agriculture. They further explained legislation related to forestry, industrial plantation and agriculture. In the coffee sector, it is one of the key sectors, with 59,000-hectare plantations all over the country. The issues with forest include forest fires, deforestation for firewood, illegal logging, illegal hunting of wildlife, conversion to food crops and new settlements. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 10**.
30. The SOCA Chair commented that Timor-Leste has comprehensive cooperation and partnerships, with some challenges noted, as well as some relations with environmental agencies. The ASOEN Chair inquired about issues related to shifting cultivation, watershed management, and asked whether there is policy related to wildfire control and management. Singapore delegate asked (i) whether there is transboundary haze pollution beyond smog generated by forest fires; (ii) on the matter of shifting cultivation mentioned by ASOEN Chair, whether there are policies in place to curb forest fires and move away from slash-and-burn agricultural practices; and (iii) plans and capabilities since Timor-Leste's response in the 2020 questionnaire, and ASEAN Secretariat asked about management of economic revenues from forestry sector and policies related to climate change matters.
31. The responses from Timor-Leste include: i) Economy: forestry and coffee as productive sectors, continue receiving state budget, wood and non-wood forest product, 30-40% forest area for production to fulfil national demand; ii) Watershed

management: there are several examples of watershed management: at the border between Indonesia, good cooperation with different institutions, involvement of various sectors, concluded 15 years cooperation with Japan, 2 major catchments (Comoro river, at eastern part) directly contribute to Dili city, under Green Climate Fund (GCF) with JICA to expand to 4 more areas through Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM). iii) Forest fires: shifting cultivation has started in the past due to pressure for livelihood, but it has reduced in the last 10 years due to new technology. Deforestation due to shifting cultivation, in particular in municipalities, is for the collection of firewood and cash selling. Government responded by producing 3 species for firewood and distributing to communities on their own land, prohibiting exploration of eucalyptus due to illegal cutting, which is important for forest cover (along north side) every 4 years with March 2020. Actions to control forest fires included the establishment of a youth brigade, extension program, and community participation as an option for livelihood. On matter of transboundary haze, Timor-Leste has bilateral cooperation with the Minister of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia on capacity building, transboundary watershed management and forestry, and circulation of forest product. It was added that at the rural level, it was local wisdom for the community to protect the forest and control the fire when clearing land for planting seasons; iv) Climate change: Timor-Leste only contributed to a very small portion of global emissions. Data and information on forest cover is to be updated to submit reports on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, in addition to the sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), including from the agriculture sector.

SITE VISIT TO CIVIL PROTECTION AGENCIES, 8 JULY 2022

32. The delegates from Timor-Leste included the President of Civil Protection Agencies (CPA), Director for disaster management, Director for firefighting, and others. The President of CPA informed that the CPA was only inaugurated in May 2022. He presented some activities related to risk assessment and early warning, as well as the flood events in May 2020. Timor-Leste informed that CPA was initiated following the largest flood event in May 2020. It has several levels of declaration of disaster responses. Level of declaration on disaster response: 1 municipal and back up by neighbouring municipalities, level 2 declaration by secretary of state (through national council of civil protection) if more than 1 municipality, level 3 calamity declaration by prime minister which can request foreign country and military forces with commander from each municipality.

SITE VISIT TO EARLY WARNING CENTRE, 8 JULY 2022

33. The Operation Centre operates 24 hours and acts as a coordination centre. It has the capacity to coordinate with line ministry, the army, and the police when necessary. They currently have a risk map for flooding and landslides and want to invest in tsunami early warning systems. The cooperation took place with relevant institutions in Indonesia (BNPB, BMKG, BASARNAS, supported by Indonesia Tsunami Early Warning System (InaTEWS). It is exploring cooperation with the Northern Territory of Australia, to provide tsunami early-warning systems. It has

received capacity building support from Japan, BNPB (Indonesia), Portugal, as well as from the UN, KOICA, JICA. Timor-Leste expressed a request to connect with AHA Centre closely to join One ASEAN One Response.

34. In the remarks, the SOCA Chair informed that Timor-Leste can be involved in capacity building related to disaster management.

GROUP 2

35. Group 2 consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia; Embassy of Malaysia to Timor-Leste; Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore; Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; and the ASEAN Secretariat.

SITE VISITS TO NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY (NISS)

36. Mr. Florencio Pina Dias Gonzaga, Director-General of the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) of Timor-Leste, Mr. Rui Gago Exposto, Director-General for Planning and Finance, and the representatives from the National Institute for Social Security (NISS) welcomed the ASEAN delegates to the Institute. The ASEAN delegation, represented by Ms. Ha Thi Minh Duc, SOCA Leader of Viet Nam, expressed appreciation to MSSI and NISS for receiving the delegation and highlighted the objectives of the fact-finding mission.

37. A representative of Ms. Aida Mota, Executive Director of NISS, delivered a presentation on an overview of social security system in Timor-Leste. The key highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The NISS' mission is to manage and execute Timor-Leste's social security system, including the management of the social security budget, the recognition of rights and compliance with the obligations arising from the social security system, as well as to ensure the application of international agreements within the scope of the social security system. NISS came into full operation in 2019, while consolidation of social security system was done in 2021. The plan for 2022 is expansion in public, private, and informal sectors.
- The fundamental values of Timor-Leste's social security system include (i) poverty reduction, (ii) improvement and expansion of social security to all workers, and (iii) promotion of institutional development. The social security system mainly consists of contributive regime and non-contributive regime. The contributive regime is mandatory for employers (6 percent) and employees (4 percent), but voluntary for the informal sector. The non-contributive regime is financed by the state budget, targeted for elderly over the age of 60 and absolute invalidity, and citizens not covered by the contributive regime.

- Future targets are, among others, to expand social security to all and extend it to cover new situations such as illness coverage and pandemic response.

The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 11**.

38. The Meeting discussed and exchanged views among others on the fiscal sustainability of the pension scheme, coverage for vulnerable groups, contribution from informal sector, COVID-19 pandemic response and cooperation with ASEAN Member States. In response to the questions raised by ASEAN delegation, NISS shared the following information:

- Pension coverage is universal for anyone over the age of 60. Alternative to this, public servants receive a separate pension once they are over the age of 60, however, only approximately 2,000 people currently receive the pension benefits.
- Due to the young population, the NISS currently receive a surplus from the contributions received. The excessive fund is invested into a reserve fund to anticipate growing demand and sustain the scheme.
- Other than elderly pension, NISS explained that the social security system covers maternity, paternity, and adoption subsidy. They will gradually expand to cover other vulnerable groups and areas, such as illness protection in 2023.
- 11,000 or approximately 10% of the total informal sector, has joined the contributive regime. Voluntary contribution varies from USD 6.00 to USD 30.00, based on levels set by the government.
- NISS has a dedicated fund for COVID-19 response and a policy to reduce the rate of contribution to 2-3%. The Government has also distributed subsidies from its COVID-19 response fund to its people, firstly 80% from employees' salary of February 2020, secondly 75% of their salary of November 2021, and thirdly 50% salary as of February 2022.
- NISS is in discussion with the Philippines on a potential draft cooperation agreement, and has an interest in also exploring an agreement on social security with other ASEAN countries, as they have Timorese workers working in ASEAN countries and vice versa. Timor-Leste is also planning to establish cooperation with other Portuguese-speaking countries.

SITE VISITS TO CENTRO NACIONAL DE REABILITAÇÃO (CNR) - NATIONAL CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION

39. Mrs. Veronica das Dores, Director-General for CNR, Mr. Florencio Pina Dias Gonzaga, Director-General of the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) of Timor-Leste, and the representatives from the *Centro Nacional de Reabilitação* (CNR) welcomed the ASEAN delegation to the Centre. Ms. Felicia Claudinanda Cruz Carvalho, Policy and Aid Coordination Advisor of the NCR, delivered a

presentation on the overview of the CNR. The key highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The CNR was formerly called NGO ASSERT (*Asosiasaun Hi'it Ema Ra'es Timor*) run by Cambodia and Australia, and is now under the Ministry of Social Security and Inclusion (MSSI). It currently has 92 staff and 5 interns, 8 of which are person with disability (PWD). The Vision of the CNR is 'no one is left behind' and the mission is to "improve the quality of life of the disabled, so that they can enjoy a fair, specialized and integrated rehabilitation." CNR are located in Dili, Baucau, and Ermera.
- CNR provides free services in the areas of orthopaedics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, adaptation to wheelchairs, and basic rehabilitation. Patients include adults, mostly suffering from stroke or amputations, and children with autism, Down Syndrome, and other developmental issues.
- CNR works with relevant ministries and other organisations to deliver the services and implement outreach programmes, such as the Ministry of Education and the Secretariat of State for Vocational Training. CNR also works with national stakeholders to support disability-inclusive development by influencing policy makers to mainstream disability integration approaches, especially in rural areas.
- CNR currently has cooperation projects with GIZ on assistive products and capacity building; Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (in cooperation with Cambodia and Indonesia) on digital health hub on rehabilitation; and Rotary Australia via Wheelchairs for Kids programme. Other partners include World Health Organisation (WHO), Portugal National Rehabilitation Centre and universities such as *Poltekkes Kesehatan Surakarta Solo*, Indonesia.

The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 12**.

40. The Meeting discussed and exchanged views among others on patient admission and demography, demand for its services, human resources capacity, and best practices. In response to the questions raised by the ASEAN delegation, CNR shared the following:

- CNR works with MSSI and hospitals to have patients referred to the Centre. CNR also does outreach activities to promote its work and encourage families to use CNR's services.
- One of major challenges is a lack of rehabilitation doctors in Timor-Leste as there are no education programmes on rehabilitation medicine in Timor-Leste. People usually study and obtain a diploma on the subject from Solo, Indonesia. CNR is working to strengthen its human resource development by establishing their own education programmes in the future.
- The ASEAN delegation noted that the number of female patients is much lower than that of male patients. CNR acknowledged that there may be more

limitations for girls and women to seek treatment. Reasons may include lack of family support for girls due to safety, economy or stigma/mindset issues.

- On best practices to share with the ASEAN delegation, CNR shared that they go by the motto of 'make the best use of what they have', and apply a holistic approach when treating patients. Beyond the physical diagnosis, CNR strives to address the underlying problems such as trauma or malnutrition.
- CNR expects the number of PWDs requiring its rehabilitation services to grow, due to contributing factors of accidents and lifestyles.

SITE VISIT TO ALOLA FOUNDATION

41. Ms. Maria Imaculada Guterres, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Alola Foundation, welcomed the ASEAN delegates to the Centre. The ASEAN delegation, represented by Mr. Alvin Goh, SOCA Leader of Singapore, expressed appreciation to MSSSI and NSS for receiving the delegation and highlighted the objectives of the fact-finding mission.

42. Ms. Maria Imaculada Guterres delivered a presentation on an overview of Alola Foundation. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 13**. The key highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Alola Foundation is a not-for-profit non-governmental organisation aiming to improve the lives of women and children. Founded in 2001 by then First Lady, Ms. Kirsty Sword Gusmao, the organization seeks to nurture women leaders and advocate for the rights of women by addressing problems relating to education, economic development, maternal and child health, and advocating women's rights. Alola's key program areas include operations, which oversees all organisational logistics and resource management, and the following:
 - a) *Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH)* aims to improve health status of women and children. The maternal and child mortality rates of Timor-Leste are one of the highest in the region of South-East Asia. The programme strategies are to (i) reduce infant and maternal mortality and morbidity rates, (ii) reduce rate of malnutrition under 5 year old, (iii) promote exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding; (iv) empower community-based groups to support maternal and child health, and (v) increase understanding about early detection and treatment of women's cancer (with partnerships with ASEAN Member States such as Malaysia in trainings of social workers). Activities include setting up hospital playroom, women's cancer support, and project implementation at community-based sites.
 - b) *The Education and Literacy Program* aims to build capacity and expand opportunities for women through increasing access and quality of education for women and children in Timor-Leste. The programme strategies are to (i) promote the importance of education with whole community involvement, (ii) provide training to improve teachers' teaching ability, (iii) resource development of literacy in Tetum and Portuguese using local resources, (iv) work

collaboratively with Ministry of Education and other education organisations to develop a holistic education programme, and (v) expand educational opportunities. Activities include mobile libraries, teachers' trainings, scholarships, and community-based preschools.

- Alola Foundation also supports women's economic empowerment and advocacy through livelihood projects (e.g. savings and loans, small scale agriculture), handicraft development projects (e.g. traditional weaving of Tais, national fairs), and capacity building activities (e.g. trainings on business skills and finance management trainings for vulnerable women in districts).
- The Foundation set up ALOLA Esperanza, a social enterprise focusing on handicrafts to support the sustainability of its operations and programmes.

43. The Meeting discussed and exchanged views on the beneficiaries, government involvement, COVID-19 impacts, funding source, capacity building needs, and women's contribution to national economy. In response to the questions raised by ASEAN delegation, Alola Foundation shared the following:

- Services provided by Alola Foundation reach around 25,000-35,000 women and children.
- Alola Foundation normally consults local governments to identify gaps before starting a project and will expand on any feedback received from the Government. The Foundation would partner with the local governments to implement the projects and hand over the projects to them after a few years.
- The Covid-19 Pandemic led to an increase of families staying at home, creating additional pressure upon women to look after their children. During the pandemic, the Foundation still make home visits to support women and children whenever possible.
- 1-2% of the funding for the operations of the Foundation is from the Government, while the majority is from donors such as UN agencies, NGOs such as Save the Children, oil companies, Australia, etc. The Foundation also works with Thai Embassy through empowerment programmes, and the Indonesian Embassy through education programmes. ALOLA Esperanza, its social enterprise, is another source of funds to cover operational costs.
- Through Alola Esperanza, the Foundation employs women from rural areas to produce Tais which Alola Esperanza subsequently sells, thus, generating an income for women from rural areas and allowing them to contribute to economy. The Foundation also supports capacity building through trainings on various skills such as business, bookkeeping, leadership, public speaking.

SITE VISIT TO FORUM KOMUNITAS PEREMPUAN TIMOR-LESTE (FOKUPERS)

44. Ms. Maria Fatima, Executive Director of *Forum Komunitas Perempuan Timor-Leste* (FOKUPERS), welcomed the ASEAN delegation to the organisation. ASEAN

delegation, represented by Ms. Fauziah Abdul Hamid, Representative SOCA Leader of Brunei Darussalam, expressed appreciation for receiving the delegation and highlighted the objectives of the Fact-finding Mission.

45. Ms. Maria Fatima delivered a presentation on an overview of FOKUPERS. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 14**. The key highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Established in 1997, FOKUPERS is a safe house for victims of violence against women and children managed by non-government organization. The institution provides shelter and support services to victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence in 13 districts throughout Timor-Leste. It also provides outreach programmes in the districts, raising awareness on the Law Against Domestic Violence in communities.
- The Vision of FOKUPERS is for women in Timor-Leste to live peacefully in their home, community and nation and foster respect for gender equality. The objectives are to promote and strengthen women's rights, eliminate discrimination against women, eliminate gender-based violence in all aspects, and develop and strengthen state system that can protect women's rights. FOKUPERS's main programmes are community awareness, advocacy, early childhood development (focusing on education and a gender-based violence approach in the curriculum), and integral service and shelter for gender-based violence victims (accommodation, counselling, play therapy, recreational services, legal and health assistance and relevant trainings).
- FOKUPERS actively supports women's movements and advocates for more robust laws against gender-based violence and for women's rights and gender equality. FOKUPERS also has advocacy networks, for example with IRAW in Malaysia and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWDL) in Thailand, but not with specific links to their shelters. FOKUPERS provides shelter and services not only to Timorese survivors, but also those from ASEAN countries living in Timor-Leste.
- FOKUPERS runs 3 shelters and 1 transit house in three municipalities: two shelters in Dili (one for adults with capacity of 25-50 survivors, one for girls under 18 years old with capacity of 17-20 survivors), one government shelter managed by FOKUPERS since 2012 with a capacity of 12-15 survivors, and one transit house for 5-10 survivors.

46. During discussion and exchange of views, FOKUPERS shared some challenges faced in running its activities, among others:

- Increasing cases of domestic violence victims and limited capacity during COVID-19 pandemic. The shelters normally accommodate more than 200 victims per year. During pandemic, however, it is challenging to accommodate victims due to pandemic prevention measures while the rate of incidence is increasing, reaching more than 300 cases per year.

- Lack of dedicated shelter for children of domestic violence victims. When seeking shelter, the victims usually bring along their dependents (1-6 children on average), and they need to be accommodated despite the limitations.

SITE VISIT TO ALMA SISTERS

47. Sister Justina Santos of ALMA Sisters welcomed the ASEAN delegation and delivered a presentation on an overview of their organisation. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 15**. Key highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The Timor-Leste branch of ALMA started in 2004, and was accepted by the Church and the Government to provide support for these living in poverty and with special needs.
- ALMA Sister is fully supported by the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Social Service and Inclusion (MSSI) and the Department of Education.
- The organisation provides assistance to vulnerable groups, such as providing shelter, food, therapy for children with special needs at schools and in the community, and health assistance.
- Alma Sister has cooperation with Alma Sister Kupang in Indonesia.

48. ASEAN delegation, represented by Ms. Wimolrat Rathakool, SOCA Leader of Thailand, expressed appreciation to ALMA Sisters for receiving the delegation.

SITE VISIT TO JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICE TIMOR-LESTE (JSS)

49. Fr. Julio Antonio Sousa, Executive Director of Jesuit Social Service Timor-Leste, welcomed the ASEAN delegation to the organisation. The ASEAN delegation, represented by Mr. Alvin Goh, SOCA Leader of Singapore, expressed appreciation for receiving the delegation and highlighted the objectives of the Fact-finding Mission.

50. Fr. Julio Antonio Sousa delivered a presentation on an overview of JSS Timor-Leste. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 16**. The key highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Jesuit Social Service Timor-Leste (JSS) was formed in mid-2013 to facilitate a more active role for the Jesuits in Timor-Leste's social development, after the withdrawal of Jesuit Refugee Service from the country.
- The vision of Jesuit Social Service in Timor-Leste is a Church and nation that are grounded in the faith and justice of the Gospel. JSS envisions united, self-reliant, and self-sustaining communities that will build a strong Timorese nation, animated by love for the country, and empowered to form a just society and

promote the common good. Its mission is to serve the faith and promote justice for integral development of the people of Timor-Leste.

- JSS is engaged in several projects in three geographical areas where the Jesuits have a long-term presence – Dare, Hera and Kasait. These cover the following broad areas:
 - a) *Comforting the needy through water and sanitation.* Alleviate poor access to water and sanitation through community-based infrastructure projects.
 - b) *Feeding the hungry through agricultural development.* Help secure an adequate food supply that is affordable for all through innovative agricultural development programs suitable to each community in the rural areas.
 - c) *Empowering the poor through social innovation.* Train and mentor youth groups and women to become social innovators. By using business solutions to social issues, JSS aims to empower the youth and the women to become agents of change through a variety of innovative projects that will not just improve the living condition of the communities where they belong but also to impart value formation and foster communal action.
 - d) *Healing the sick through public health development.* Develop public health interventions in the rural areas where there is poor access to health care.

51. The Meeting discussed and exchanged views on JSS beneficiaries, staffing, and facilities; funding source and budget allocation; collaboration and linkage with other organisations; and challenges in ensuring sustainability of its operations. In response to questions raised by the ASEAN delegation, the JSS shared that:

- JSS currently has 31 paid staff and has collaboration with some non-profit organisations such as Plan International and UNICEF. JSS operates on government-owned land with minimal rent paid to the Ministry of Justice. JSS has 22 water project sites, benefiting 600-800 people in each community.
- The primary fund comes from Jesuit Mission in Australia, and smaller funds from Singapore, Indonesia, and other donors. Of all current priorities, water and sanitation projects require the highest budget (USD12,000 per site), followed by setting up clinics (USD 100,000 per year).
- JSS services totally depend on donor support and they need to continue to find creative ways to mobilise resources. The Meeting discussed the potential for JSS to affiliate with and seek support from the Government for its sustainability.

GROUP 3

52. Group 3 consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Cambodia; Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia; Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to ASEAN; Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore;

Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Thailand; Ministry of Education and Training Vietnam; Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture Indonesia; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia; Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Timor-Leste; Embassy of Malaysia to Timor-Leste; Permanent Mission of Republic of the Philippines to ASEAN; and the ASEAN Secretariat.

SITE VISIT TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS (SSYS) OF TIMOR-LESTE, 7 JULY 2022

53. Mr. Abrão Saldanha, Director of Secretary of State for Youth and Sport of Timor-Leste, or *Secretaria de Estado da Juventude e do Desporto (SEJD)*, welcomed the ASEAN Delegation. He introduced SEJD's role in assisting the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports in Timor-Leste, with responsibility to design, execute, coordinate, and assess the policy as defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of promotion of the youth's well-being and development, physical education, and sports.
54. The SEJD team presented that to achieve its mission, SEJD conducts the following activities: (i) propose policy guidelines for SEJD to the Government and prepare draft regulatory procedures for the areas of Youth and Sports; (ii) ensure the implementation of the legal and regulatory framework for youth and sports-related activities; (iii) promote, in coordination with other competent entities, youth-oriented activities, especially in the fields of sports, arts and culture; and (iv) establish mechanisms for ensuring collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas within the scope of the implementation of the national youth policy; among others. SEJD also shared the areas of capacity building they need such as technical assistance in the development of their Masterplan for Development of Sports in Timor-Leste, review of their National Youth Policy that may be aligned with ASEAN, and revision of the National Youth Action Plan for alignment with ASEAN. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 17**.
55. Mr. Iwan Eka Setiawan, as the alternate SOCA Leader of Indonesia, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.
56. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:
- Considering the country's capacities in terms of sports development, Timor-Leste prioritises certain sports such as football in its programmes. However, traditional sports and games (TSG) also form part of the priorities of the SSYS.
 - It was informed that the facilities for youth and sports in Dili are built and maintained by SEJD, with some facilities maintained in cooperation with other line ministries and local governments.
 - With regard to capacity building for sports, technical assistances from the international federation have been received to build the capacity of coaches, in particular training and knowledge transfer for coaches. SEJD staff have experience in writing proposals and conduct of project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) through the online M&E system. It was noted that SEJD has a plan to build a football academy as a facility to develop young athletes.

- It was observed that education is only one directorate among seven directorates in SEJD. It was suggested that more attention could be put to education as well, in addition to youth and sports.
- ASEAN Member States delegates also inquired whether there were youth or sports activities hosted by Timor-Leste that involved or engaged ASEAN Member States or international youth delegates. Timor-Leste replied that as CPLP Summit host in 2014-2016, they hosted some events as part of their commitment in the CPLP, that involved participation from international delegates from CPLP member countries.

SITE VISIT TO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF TIMOR-LESTE, 7 JULY 2022

57. Professor Dr. João Soares Martins, Rector of National University of Timor-Leste or *Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)*, introduced the vision of UNTL which is to be a centre for excellence for higher education and scientific research in Timor-Leste, with the values of excellence, creativity and innovation, transformation and continuous learning, leadership, collaboration, transparency and accountability. Delegates were informed that UNTL has 9 faculties (agriculture; social sciences; economics and management; education, arts and humanities; medicine and health sciences; engineering, sciences and technology; law; philosophy, and exact sciences) with 40 departments, 14 research, development and training centres, 12 conventional libraries, and 1 institutional repository. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 18**.

58. Dr. Heng Kreng, alternate SOCA Leader of Cambodia, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.

59. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:

- Inclusive education is also part of the policy in UNTL. Regulation for inclusive education has improved from Diploma 1 to Diploma 3 level. Vocational trainings are also provided in the Polytechnic until Diploma 2. The tuition fee is USD 30/student/semester and Government of Timor-Leste has been providing financial supports to the university. The gender ratio of students is overall around 50:50.
- Cooperation is one of the main methods of UNTL development, as demonstrated by the implementation of numerous collaborations, with almost 100 Cooperation Agreements with institutions from all over the world (i.e. 20 countries and 75 institutions). Currently, UNTL has bilateral collaboration with some universities in ASEAN Member States, with Indonesia in particular. The collaboration is mostly on the areas of joint research and conferences. UNTL expressed interest to have more collaboration with universities in ASEAN Member States.
- UNTL has participated in the SEAMEO Meeting and scholarship programme in health area. Additionally, UNTL has participated in the SEAMEO SEARCA Scholarship programme in agriculture, environment, forestry, and veterinary studies. On the credit system transfer, UNTL uses the EU system (ACTS) as

applied in Portugal and other EU countries. The university also aims to digitalise its activities.

- A suggestion was raised for a possibility to create a centre for ASEAN studies in the university, with the intention of promoting ASEAN awareness and bringing ASEAN closer to people. People connectivity has been long existing between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, especially in agriculture sector. Another suggestion was to develop a new curriculum on public health emergencies, which is currently worked on by UNTL.
- It was mentioned that the main challenge faced by UNTL is infrastructure, as there is a need to have more classrooms, as well as the need for better internet connection to digitalise its activities. For its capacity building, UNTL would like to have more joint research and publication with other universities. In terms of relation with industry, graduates from the Faculty of Engineering are mostly absorbed into construction industry. With the exception of this, more collaboration with private sectors is needed to ensure engineering graduates may be absorbed into other industries. Another challenge is the capacity to conduct or participate in international conferences which is impacted by a limited budget. 90% of the teaching staff of UNTL are Cuban.

SITE VISIT TO SPORTS FACILITY / ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT, 7 JULY 2022

60. Ms. Chatchadaporn Pitaksathienkul, SOMS Chair's representative from Thailand, introduced the ASEAN delegation from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam who joined the group 3 of the ASCC FFM's site visits on 7 July 2022. She also conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.
61. The ASEAN Delegation was briefed that the Dili Sports Gymnasium, or *Ginasio Desportiva Dili (GDD)* is one of two multi-function sports facilities built and managed by the government of Timor-Leste, through the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport. The building was constructed by the Indonesian government in 1987 and, as the Portuguese built gymnasium located in the same compound, was deemed inadequate for the sports activities yet. The gymnasium was named *Gedung Matahari Terbit*, or the Sunrise building/Gymnasium. The building was then renamed as GDD or the Dili Sport Gymnasium in 2002 following the restoration of Independence. The building has undergone rehabilitation since then to ensure it caters for the current sporting situation and needs.
62. Following the renovation, the building has a 1903 seats capacity. Out of which 65 seats are designated to VVIPs. Currently 7 sporting federations, namely; athletics, karatedo, basketball, volleyball, chess, kempo, and aikido are using allotment of spaces at the gymnasium as their secretariat offices. In terms of function, the building has been used for indoor volleyball, indoor futsal, basketball, badminton, boxing and martial arts competitions.

SITE VISIT TO TIMOR-LESTE NATIONAL SCHOOL - COLEGIO SANTO INACIO LOIOLA CASAIT, 8 JULY 2022

63. It was informed that the *Colegio Santo Inacio Loiola Casait* or the Jesuit School in Timor-Leste was formally opened in 2013. The school has a vision to create a faith-based environment that encourages young people to develop their full potentials to serve the church and society through lifelong learning, intellectual competence, spiritually compassionate, and conscientious human beings for the greater glory of God. The school's mission is to provide excellence in teaching and learning, to form young men and women with integrity, educated in faith and justice, committed to the care of the individual with an openness to all aspects of culture and tradition to become men and women for and with others. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 19**.

64. Mrs. Rasidah Hidup, Head of Researcher from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports Brunei Darussalam, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.

65. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:

- An interesting fact was discussed that there is gender imbalance of student enrolment, where more female students passed the admission test compared with male students. It was explained that some of the reasons might be related to the long hours of study, long distance from hometown, and strong discipline, which may discourage male students. It was observed that overall, female students are more diligent and have stronger discipline, than male students. In this regard, it was also suggested that the school also empower male students.
- The school has a policy for not allowing students to bring their smartphone to school, in order for students to focus on human interaction. Internet access is only provided in the library and computer lab. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the school has implemented online study to 80% of students for seven months, using google meet and forms, while the offline study was also still available for 20% of students who did not have sufficient equipment for online study. The limited access to internet connection was indicated as a main challenge.
- In term of inclusivity, it was mentioned that around 13% of student population are coming from underprivileged families. The school also provides opportunities for students from the local public school to study in the Jesuit School for a certain time to prepare for their graduate examination and to enter universities. Most of the graduates from Jesuit School aim for higher education. The government of Timor-Leste provides financial support to the school in providing financial supports to some teachers' salaries.
- It was noted that students learn about ASEAN at school through the subjects of citizenship, history, and geography of the national curriculum. English language is also taught in addition to Portuguese language. Physical education is scheduled for 3 hours a week, e.g. football, hand ball, and badminton.

SITE VISIT TO TIMOR-LESTE ADVENTIST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (TAIS), 8 JULY 2022

66. It was presented that Timor-Leste Adventist International School (TAIS) is part of the worldwide Adventist Education system with 5,714 primary schools, 1,969 secondary schools, and 113 tertiary institutions around the world. Following the North American Division Adventist Education curriculum, TAIS is accredited by the Adventist Accreditation Association. The school's mission is to enable learners to develop a life of faith in God, and to use their knowledge, skills, and understandings to serve God and humanity. Its vision is for every learner to excel in faith, learning, and service, blending biblical truth and academic achievement to honour God and bless others. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 20**.

67. Mrs. Nur Hidayah Binti Mohd, Charge D'affaires A.I., Embassy of Malaysia in Dili, Timor-Leste, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.

68. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:

- Most of students are coming from families who work in companies in Timor-Leste. The school is affordable for local students and 85% of students are Timorese. Scholarships from partners are also available.
- Students learn English and Portuguese languages at school. Extracurricular activities include music, sports, debate, and speech clubs.
- Education technology is part of the curriculum starting from grade 3. During the pandemic, the school used zoom, google, and WhatsApp platforms to deliver lessons to students at homes. ASEAN subject matter is also taught at school. Currently the school has sister cooperation with schools in some ASEAN Member States.
- In facing the current trend of technology and fast mobility, the school encourages teachers to be more creative in enhancing critical thinking, to have more practical exercises instead of only listening, to motivate students to learn different skills, and to appreciate cultural differences.

SITE VISIT TO XANANA SPORTS CENTRE, 8 JULY 2022

69. The ASEAN Delegation was introduced to the Xanana Sports Centre located next to Football Federation of Timor-Leste building. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 21**.

70. Mr. Noel L. Rodriguez, Third Secretary from Permanent Mission of the Philippines to ASEAN, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.

71. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:

- It was informed that more sports facilities still need to be developed. It has been planning to approach FIFA to assist Timor-Leste's football federation and build a stadium. Delegates suggested to pay attention to the environmental concerns when building the stadium.
- The centre has a strategic plan on the outstanding athlete retirement. One of the plans is to focus on the development of a football school. Capacity building

for ex-players will also be provided to the outstanding athlete retirement for developing their personal knowledge, skills for delivering coaching course, etc.

- Sport science is also taught in the national university to support athletes. As for the coaches, currently there are four level of licences for coaching education available, with the duration of courses from weeks to months, depending on the type of licenses.
- The fitness centres in Dili that are currently open for public are owned by private companies, however, the delegations were informed that Dili will soon have a fitness centre to facilitate athletes, coaches, and public.

SITE VISIT TO UNDP YOUTH CENTRE (KNUA JUVENTUDE FILA-LIMAN), 8 JULY 2022

72. The ASEAN delegation was introduced to *Knua Juventude Fila-Liman* (KJFL), a one-stop centre for youth innovation, employment and entrepreneurship, managed and sponsored by UNDP Timor-Leste. At the centre, youth can access information, training, and empowerment through activities to improve their employability and entrepreneurship skills, as well as promoting their voices and engagement in development. The overall goal of the platform is to transform idle youth to become change-makers and social innovators through leadership and entrepreneurship programmes, tackling challenges and seizing opportunities. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 22**.

73. Mr. Suong Savath, seconded officer for ASCC from the Permanent Mission of Cambodia to ASEAN, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.

74. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:

- While providing an integrated end-to-end support service for idea generation, start-up to scale-up, youth are also engaged in mentorship programmes, focus groups and trainings, which shape positive behavioural changes and develop citizenship.
- Services provided include training and incubation, business registration and legal advice, financing and financial literacy, innovation camps and challenges, research and leadership development, internships and employment opportunities, internet access and online learning, and E-Market platform connecting demand to supply for skills, services, and products.
- There is gender imbalance among participants receiving the programmes, where most participants are male (60%) especially for the entrepreneurial track whereas there are more women taking up the internship track. It was suggested to encourage more female participation in the entrepreneurship trainings.
- International collaboration with Citi foundation and New Zealand Embassy, together with UNDP and Government of Timor-Leste, has been developed to establish the *Youth Co:Lab Timor-Leste* in 2017 to empower and invest in youth for acceleration of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.

- Key challenges were mentioned in programme implementation, e.g. digital infrastructure, participation of youth in rural areas, and access to finance for youth entrepreneurs.

SITE VISIT TO DILI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 8 JULY 2022

75. Dr. Alvaro Menezes Amaral, Rector of Dili Institute of Technology (DIT), presented that as a private non-profit higher education, DIT has the vision to be a regional centre of excellence by 2050, providing opportunities for advanced academic, cultural and professional learning experiences, within a caring community, designed to promote success in a global society. The values of DIT are intellectual and ethical integrity; diversity and pluralism; partnership and teamwork; as well as creativity and innovation, among others. With regard to the faculties and study programmes, DIT has faculties of engineering and science, tourism and hospitality, business and management, petroleum studies, and a master of business administration post graduate programme. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 23**.

76. Dr. Heng Kreng, alternate SOCA Leader from Cambodia, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objective of the ASCC FFM to Timor-Leste.

77. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:

- Until now, DIT has around 4000 undergraduates and 21 postgraduates. Currently, there are 17 lecturers with Ph.D. degree, 66 lecturers with master's degree, and 32 lecturers with bachelor's degree. There are two international students from African countries, while in the past there were also international students from Indonesia.
- In developing curriculum, DIT involved the perspective from industries to minimise gap between curriculum and industry. Furthermore, industries are also involved in the delivery and assessment of the curriculum.
- DIT vocational education and training aims to support life-long learning, continuing education learning opportunities for school leavers, adults, and part-time learners, by providing training to meet community needs in certificate 4 and diploma training and assessment. It was established to develop and deliver training programme in diverse areas, to support the professional and personal development needs of individuals and communities, and to address national requirement by increasing continuing education needs.
- Regarding partnership with other universities, DIT has commenced partnership with universities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Australia, and Portugal. DIT expressed optimism to having more partnership with universities in other ASEAN countries.
- In the promotion of student mobility, DIT has implemented field studies in Indonesia for hundreds of students in the areas of petroleum, tourism and hospitality. Many lecturers have obtained Masters' degree in the universities in some ASEAN Member States, as well as receiving lecturers from Indonesia. Currently, there is no joint programme with ASEAN Member States for students, however, DIT hoped to initiate such programme in the future.

- With regard to capacity building, the institution wishes to have collaboration for training and higher education with universities in ASEAN Member States, with priorities in the areas of natural resources, petroleum, tourism and hospitality, construction, and agriculture.
- DIT shared that its scientific journal that was established 3 years ago and has invited scholars from Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines to participate in the peer review of submitted papers.
- DIT plans to allocate 30% of scholarship to young talented professional training and high education for women. It is hoped that DIT could encourage more engagement of women in the future.

GROUP 4

78. Group 4 consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia; Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia; Ministry of Manpower, Indonesia; Ministry of Health, Lao PDR; Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR; Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore; Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, Indonesia; Permanent Mission of The Philippines to ASEAN; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; and the ASEAN Secretariat.

INTERFACE WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, 7 JULY 2022

79. Dr. Odete da Silva Viegas, Director General of Health Service Delivery of the Ministry of Health welcomed the ASEAN delegates of the ASCC FFM and introduced the Ministry's delegation. Reciprocally, Dr. Ai Songheang as the alternate SOCA Leader of Cambodia, introduced the ASEAN delegations and conveyed the objectives of the ASCC-FFM to Timor-Leste.

80. The Ministry of Health introduced the national health system and health infrastructure of Timor-Leste which, as of 2021, covered 6 hospitals, 340 health posts, 73 community health centre, 48 maternity clinics, 55 health professional residence, and 13 municipality health services. As of 2021, Timor-Leste, which is a country of over 1,3 million population, had 74 specialist doctors, 925 general doctors, 1414 nurses, 232 assistant nurses, 669 midwives and 851 technical allies.

81. The Ministry of Health introduced its universal health coverage based on two health programmes of *Saude Na Familia* which facilitates the home visits of health workers and SISCa which is a community-based health post. The Ministry shared the country's achievements on reproductive, maternal and child health; prevalence of wasting and stunting in children; and health programmes on immunisation, NTD, prevention of malaria re-establishment, HIV and Tuberculosis. The Ministry also shared its emergency response system, digitalisation of health information system and warehouse of medical supplies managed by SAMES. The Ministry introduced the National Hospital of Guido Valadares and its infrastructure, secondary and tertiary medical care and facilities, services for inpatient and outpatient, and clinical trainings for doctors, nurses and mid-wives. Part of the hospital's recent developments is establishment of oncology, expanded cardiology service,

laparoscopic surgery, and mammography. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 24**.

82. The Meeting exchanged views and noted comments of ASEAN Member States as follows:

- a) SOMHD Lao PDR enquired on the policy mechanism on utilisation of health technology assessment in the universal health coverage (UHC) policy and strategy, as well as percentages of health expenditure in GDP, health service coverage in UHC, population coverage in UHC, and out-of-pocket payment vis-à-vis health expenditure.
- b) SOMHD Lao PDR also enquired on follow-up actions and ways forward to the Joint External Evaluation on International Health Regulations Core Capacities of Timor-Leste in 2018.
- c) SOMHD Lao PDR requested for information on non-communicable disease policies and mechanisms especially in anticipation of ageing population, food safety, food-borne disease control and food risk assessment. Timor-Leste was asked for its capacity to attend many meetings and activities under SOMHD if and when it would join ASEAN. Meanwhile, SOMHD was preparing a list of capacity building activities opened for Timor-Leste's participation.
- d) SOMHD Lao PDR further requested for information on the utilisation of health technology in assessment of traditional medicines.
- e) SLOM Indonesia enquired on occupational safety and health in the workplace especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in relation to the work of ministry of health and ministry of manpower in promoting safety and health in the workplace.
- f) SOCA Cambodia enquired on Timor-Leste's sustainability strategy for its UHC and also technical capacity building plan for medical professionals.
- g) Timor-Leste provided the following clarification:
 - Nine pillars in the ministry of health with different responsibilities and which cooperate with other line ministries and partners as relevant, such as on occupational health. COVID-19 response and vaccination were handled by the National Commission comprising of ten ministries.
 - Public health expenditure reached 6.9% of GDP in 2015 and increased to 8.2% in 2019. Apart from the government budget, the public health especially service delivery and logistics support also received financial support from external partners or donors.
 - The government provided community-level health facilities throughout the country to support access to UHC in remote areas. Due to budget constraints, those facilities had not been well upgraded. The government also provided home visits conducted by medical practitioners and community participatory diagnostic.
 - The JEE recommendations have been implemented so far but many activities had been postponed due to pandemic. The Ministry planned to evaluate on how to implement them in post-pandemic situation. Core capacities of Timor-Leste would still need to be improved to reach green line

or at least yellow line, notably the legislation, financial, human resources and laboratory aspects.

- Communicable and non-communicable disease policies, including the law on tobacco control, were in place and implemented. The National Strategic Plans on Nutrition and Food Security were implemented together with other ministries and, thus, full clarification could only be provided after receiving information from them. Timor-Leste had established a national body to control food safety and became a member of the Codex Alimentarius in 2019. Its food safety laboratory capacity will need to be strengthened.
- The Ministry of Health continued to strengthen capacities of government officials and health professionals using the state budget including the human capital fund. Medical specialist trainings were also offered by external partners such as Cuba, Fiji, Australia, Portugal, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The Ministry welcomed support of ASEAN in this regard. The Ministry planned to meet its targeted number of doctors, nurses and mid-wives needed for the country.
- The Ministry had a system to control traditional medicines including procurement, warehousing and tracking. The data inventory system was planned for installation in all health facilities in 2022.

SITE VISITS TO NATIONAL HOSPITAL OF GUIDO VALADARES, 7 JULY 2022

83. Subsequent to the interface, the ASEAN delegates visited the National Hospital of Guido Valadares, and observed its facilities and services. The hospital has more than 250 beds, with secondary and tertiary healthcare services. The hospital treats medical obstetric and surgical patients. On the site of the hospital there is also a major facility for eye diseases. Dialysis is offered within the department of medicine. There is a department of anaesthetics with an intensive care unit. The government recognised the hospital as a body with indirect administration from the state, giving it administrative, financial and patrimonial autonomy.

SITE VISIT TO HOSPITAL ANTONIO CARVALHO, 7 JULY 2022

84. The ASEAN delegates also visited the Hospital Antonio Carvalho, and observed its facilities and services. The hospital was rehabilitated in 2020 from its former function as a maternity hospital to become isolation rooms for positive patients with COVID-19. In early 2021, the hospital received a range of medical equipment from UNICEF and ADB that would help with treatment of mild and severe cases of COVID-19.

INTERFACE WITH SEFOPE (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT), CNEFP (NATIONAL CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING), AND INDMO (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR), 8 JULY 2022

85. Mr. Paulo Alves, Director General of State Secretary for Vocational Training and Employment, welcomed the ASEAN delegates of the Fact-finding Mission to Timor-

Leste, and introduced the delegation of Timor-Leste from SEFOPE, CNEFP and INDMO. Reciprocally, Ms. Sri Lestari on behalf of the SLOM Chair, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objectives of the ASCC-FFM to Timor-Leste.

86. Timor-Leste introduced SEFOPE which is under Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs. It is mandated to ensure implementation of policy related to vocational training, employment and industrial relations including on skills development, promotion of tripartism, occupational safety and health. Its programmes are guided by the legal framework and National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030, TVET Plan 2011-2030 and National Employment Strategy 2017-2030.
87. SEFOPE aimed to i) improve workforce quality, generating a productive, creative and innovative workforce. One of initiatives is to create an excellence training centre to accommodate 10,000 students annually; ii) create employment opportunities and evidence-based policies including establishment of job centres, labour market information system, labour force survey and deployment of workers to overseas; iii) increase advocacy for vocational training, employment and decent work including national skills competition, social dialogue and decent work promotion. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 25**.
88. INDMO introduced its mandate which is guided by the Constitution, Basic Law of Education, National Qualification Framework and Decree Law of INDMO. Same as the SEFOPE, the INDMO is under the coordinating ministry of economic affairs and its programmes are also guided by the National Strategic Development Plan, TVET Plan and National Employment Strategy. INDMO is mandated to define competency standards for level I-IV, validate and recognise work-related competency, consider operational license an accreditation of training providers, concede accreditation of training providers and SMEs, and certify trainers and assessors. INDMO engages national stakeholders from TVET providers, industry, professionals and trade union in building TVET in the country. Some key milestones of INDMO were highlighted.
89. INDMO invited ASEAN Member States to join the 2nd Timor-Leste International Skills Conference on TVET Transition: Increasing Duality and Inclusiveness of Timor-Leste's TVET for National Development on 15-16 August 2022. INDMO requested that Timor-Leste could participate in the ASEAN Skills Competition while they had been participating in the World Skills Competition. The presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 26**.
90. The Meeting exchanged views and noted comments of ASEAN Member States as follows:
- a) SOCA Viet Nam enquired on the structure of SEFOPE vis-à-vis Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Education. In response, Timor-Leste clarified that the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs includes three secretaries of state including SEFOPE.
 - b) SOCA Viet Nam enquired on budget allocation for TVET as percentage to state budget, unemployment rate, and proportion of formal and informal workers. Viet Nam requested for clarification on the plan of Timor-Leste to charge the

remittance of Timorese migrant workers. Noting Timor-Leste had ratified 6 out of the 8 ILO core conventions, Viet Nam enquired status of the remaining ratification and adoption of other ILO instruments on OSH, social security, etc. Viet Nam enquired on retraining and its relation with the social security fund or unemployment fund or retirement fund.

- c) Timor-Leste clarified that it adopted a retirement work programme. Unemployment rate reached 10% in 2016. Labour force data has not been updated since. 72% of the 679,000 labour force is in informal sector.
- d) Cambodia enquired on the number of migrant workers currently working overseas and how the COVID-19 Pandemic affects them and their remittances. Timor-Leste had registered over 6,000 professionals in the country.
- e) Timor-Leste clarified that conventions on tripartism (144), anti-harassment had been ratified. A total of 13-15% of state budget was dedicated for TVET. Total remittance of over USD 47 million from Timorese workers in Australia and nearly USD 40 million from those in Republic of Korea. Department of Reintegration developed a programme to ensure that remittances would support a community development programme. It included retraining programmes for returned migrant workers to enable them to start businesses.
- f) Viet Nam clarified that the accession of Timor-Leste would give financial implication to ASEAN Member States also through the increased hosting budget of ASEAN sectoral bodies' meetings. Participation of Timor-Leste in ASEAN sectoral bodies would depend on the outcome of Timor-Leste's application of ASEAN membership.
- g) Cambodia enquired on strategies to develop quality of TVET, and upgrade capacities of administrative officials in the line ministries across the board.
- h) Timor-Leste clarified that capacity building was provided for TVET trainers of certification III and IV especially since many of them were not certified and lacking experience in industry. They were provided with mentoring and temporary placement in industry for better exposure.
- i) Timor-Leste clarified that the industry was engaged in the process of improving qualification standards and TVET institutions to meet international standards. Timor-Leste learned from the Australian skills certification system. It was clarified that level I-IV was under the purview of INDMO while level V onwards was under the ministry of education.
- j) Indonesia applauded Timor-Leste on efforts to enter ASEAN and enquired on capacity building initiatives. Timor-Leste clarified that its investment on vocational trainings received a priority in the state budget allocation for 2022-2023. Human development capital fund existed under the department of higher education to enhance capacity of workforce in the country.
- k) Viet Nam encouraged Timor-Leste to build bilateral cooperation with ASEAN Member States pertaining to skills certification and recognition. Viet Nam informed that the ASEAN Labour Inspection Committee (ALICOM) was newly established and may welcome Timor-Leste for participation in capacity building activities upon the interest of Timor-Leste. Capacity building activities under ACMW, SLOM-WG and ASEAN-OSHNET may also be opened for Timor-Leste's participation.

SITE VISIT TO CNEP (NATIONAL CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT), 8 JULY 2022

91. Subsequent to the interface, the ASEAN delegates visited CNEFP which was established in 2002, and observed its facilities and services. The CNEFP aimed to promote professional training primarily in the civil construction sector, but seeking to cover other promising sectors of activity. CNEFP was endowed with administrative and financial autonomy and its own assets, being under the tutelage of the Secretary of State for the Policy for Vocational Training and Employment which is the government agency responsible for vocational training. CNEFP's objectives are to train quality trainees, with the purpose of entering the job market and ensuring an advanced level of theoretical and practical knowledge, of the internal and external trainers.

INTERFACE WITH SAMES (AUTONOMOUS SERVICE OF MEDICINES AND HEALTH EQUIPMENT) AND SITE VISIT TO SAMES WAREHOUSE, 8 JULY 2022

92. Executive Director of SAMES introduced the vision, mission, strategic objectives and responsibilities of SAMES towards its vision of complete, equal and safe access to essential medicines and medical consumables for the entire population of Timor-Leste. In spite of non-medical manufacturing in the country, SAMES acts as the national regulatory body for standardised medical and health products, regulating medical procurement and supply chain system, as well as building quality warehouse infrastructure. Core function of SAMES is to facilitate access to essential medicines and medical supplies for all, build capacity of organisation and move towards an integrated system aligned with national health system and policy.

93. SAMES also introduced its future medical equipment warehouse and laboratory for quality control which was planned for completion in 2023. SAMES would select manufactures of medicines to be imported. Presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 27**.

94. Dr. Ha Thi Minh Duc, as the SOCA Leader of Viet Nam, introduced the ASEAN delegation and conveyed the objectives of the ASCC-FFM to Timor-Leste.

95. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following comments:

- a) SOMHD Lao PDR enquired on supply chain management, drug distribution in the country, and mechanism to control drug quality, drug testing and food safety laboratory. Lao PDR also enquired on strategies to ensure resilience and availability at all times, noting the high reliance of medical supply from other countries.
- b) SOCA Viet Nam enquired on potential of Timor-Leste to start producing some medicines locally.

- c) Timor-Leste clarified that SAMES planned for a higher standard of procurement including bidding process. All medicines shall be purchased by SAMES upon requests and channelled through the Ministry of Health. Timor-Leste imported medicines and laboratory equipment from Indonesia, Singapore, India, Australia and others.
- d) Viet Nam enquired on the suppliers of vaccines, percentage of COVID-19 vaccinated population, and assurance of the storage of vaccines and proper injection.
- e) Timor-Leste clarified that it had vaccination facilities used for AZ, Sinovac and Pfizer vaccines contributed by Indonesia, ROK, Australia, USA, China and few other countries. 89.3% population were fully vaccinated with the booster on-going. Procurement of vaccines was done with support of UNICEF. The challenge is on vaccine distribution according to health requirement.
- f) Lao PDR enquired on digital system of warehouse, and system of drug distributions to health facilities. Lao PDR enquired on how SAMES ensured drug security in the country.
- g) Timor-Leste clarified that distribution is channelled from central warehouse to provincial warehouse, monitored by staff – 15% out of whom are pharmacists and pathologists.

96. Subsequent to the interface, the ASEAN delegates visited the warehouse of medical supplies managed by SAMES on 8 July 2022.

F. EXIT MEETING WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

97. On behalf of ASEAN Member States, SOCA Leaders or their representatives expressed appreciation to the Government of Timor-Leste for the warm hospitality accorded to their delegations and shared their views and feedback on the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM).
98. Mrs. Ha Thi Minh Duc, SOCA Leader of Viet Nam, shared that, overall, she had a positive impression on the social protection, education and health policies in Timor-Leste. She noted that Timor-Leste is very generous to its citizens, in view of its universal health and social security coverage including elderly pension benefits, sizable allocation of 13-15 percent of national state budget for vocational training, free tuition fees for vocational trainings, and affordable university tuition. She, however, expressed concern over Timor-Leste's health security, noting that it is highly dependent on other countries to supply medicine, as Timor-Leste currently does not produce its own medicine in the country. She referred to the lessons learned from COVID-19 pandemic, where, for example, aspirin mainly produced by India and masks by China were in high demand and posed a challenge for countries all over the world. She therefore underlined the importance of being self-reliant and resilient in terms of medical security. Should the production of modern medicine be not feasible, she highlighted the opportunity to promote traditional medicine. She further expressed concern on the stability and sustainability of the

existing social security scheme in the long run in view of growing and aging population. She highlighted the potential of political instability that may arise from social security challenges in the future. She shared that ASEAN Member States continuously learn from each other on how to improve social security, education and health systems, and welcomed the participation of Timor-Leste in capacity building activities.

99. Mr. Iwan Ika Setiawan, SOCA Leader of Indonesia, acknowledged Timor-Leste's commitment and continuous efforts to develop and strengthen its capacity with regard to its application for ASEAN membership. He noted that Timor-Leste has developed its institutional and normative frameworks that correspond to the sectoral bodies under the ASCC pillar. He highlighted the importance of coherent top-to-bottom policy implementation, and the need to address any potential implementation gaps, especially at the grassroots or district level. He welcomed Timor-Leste to actively participate on the non-decision-making activities of the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies. He highlighted the importance of demonstrating how joining ASEAN will not only reflect the interest of the government of Timor-Leste but also benefit the people. He noted that Timor-Leste has found it useful to participate in ASEAN's sports and youth related activities to have better understanding of ASEAN. He encouraged Timor-Leste to promote awareness about ASEAN and Southeast Asia, and consider incorporating Southeast Asia studies at university level. He further noted with appreciation the commitment and progress of Timor-Leste on the issue of inclusivity, especially in the educational and social protection sector, such as through affirmative policy on access to education for children with poor family background. He recognized that it truly reflected the spirit of leaving no one behind and investment on human resources development, which is one of priorities of the ASCC Pillar. He encouraged Timor-Leste to continue participating in ASEAN's non-decision-making activities, and to share any challenges or difficulties with ASEAN in taking part in such activities. To respond the challenges experienced by Timor-Leste, including keeping the track of socio-cultural development trajectory, Indonesia encouraged capacity building mechanism for Timor-Leste and supported sharing of best practices from ASEAN Member States with Timor-Leste.
100. Mr. Aung Myint, SOCA Leader of Myanmar, recognized that Timor-Leste has achieved significant progress in the last few years and looked forward to future developments. He assured that Myanmar would welcome Timor-Leste as part of ASEAN family upon completion of its application for ASEAN membership.
101. Ms. Wimolrat Ratchukool, SOCA Leader of Thailand, assured that as one of the founding fathers of ASEAN, Thailand looked forward to welcoming Timor-Leste as a member of ASEAN. She was impressed that Timor-Leste has a comprehensive understanding on ASEAN's structure and work. She expressed appreciation to Timor-Leste for its hard work, determination and efforts, and looked forward to Timor-Leste's membership to ASEAN in the near future. Despite the complexity of the ASEAN membership application process under the ASEAN Charter, she encouraged Timor-Leste to continue its strong determination and strategic focus. On the site visits, she appreciated the opportunity to interact with various organisations. She noted that most organisations visited in social services group are non-governmental organisations, while only a few are run by the

Government. She enquired if the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) has any agency or department that provide direct services to the people, and if MSSI could share the organizational structure of the Ministry. She expressed positive impressions on the operations and services provided by the organisations, especially the National Centre for Rehabilitation and Aloia Foundation.

102. Mr. Alvin Goh, SOCA Leader of Singapore found the FFM very useful in providing an opportunity to interact with sectoral agencies and to gather information. On the visits to social services agencies and NGOs, he observed strong passion from the people involved and had an opportunity to discuss on the matter of sustainability of their programmes. He assured that Singapore will continue to support Timor-Leste in capacity building programmes.
103. Ms. Fauziah Abdul Hamid, Representative SOCA Leader of Brunei Darussalam, found the work of NGOs on social welfare issues commendable, with or without the support from the Government. She was of the view that the Ministry could build upon their work and strengthen the country's social security further. She encouraged Timor-Leste to also explore and strengthen youth empowerment, in view of the high youth population percentage. In view of Timor-Leste's future IT infrastructure plan, the Government of Timor-Leste need to look at the impact of the eventual increase of the role of social media in the lives of the youth.
104. Mr. Khamphou Phiasackha, SOCA Leader of Lao PDR, shared that they learned a lot from the FFM. He reiterated Lao PDR's support to Timor-Leste and looked forward to working together with Timor-Leste.
105. Mrs. Nur Hidayah Binti Mohd, Charge D'Affaires A.I. of Embassy of Malaysia to Timor-Leste, acknowledged significant developments in Timor-Leste despite the challenges that it may face. She looked forward to Timor-Leste's active involvement in enhancing people-to-people developments through capacity building programmes.
106. Mr. Noel L. Rodriguez, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to ASEAN, reiterated that Philippines had always been supportive of Timor-Leste's efforts in relation to its application for ASEAN membership. He expressed confidence that despite the challenges that Timor-Leste faced on the political and economic front, Timor-Leste was on track in terms of its institutional and policy preparation in relation to its aspiration to join ASEAN. He highlighted that while the FFM mission is an important process, it was not the end and more follow-ups were necessary. Philippines looked forward to continuing its participation in the process and in succeeding activities.
107. Dr. Dy Kamboly, SOCA Leader of Cambodia, shared his fondness of Timor-Leste, and expressed support for Timor-Leste's application to be a member of ASEAN, noting the many shared similarities between Timor-Leste and ASEAN countries. He acknowledged the progresses, though with limitation, of all indicative Timor-Leste ASCC sectoral bodies, which show Timor-Leste's readiness to be a member of ASEAN. He expressed optimism for the way forward for Timor-Leste ASEAN membership. SOCA Cambodia has been consistently supportive to Timor-Leste's application.

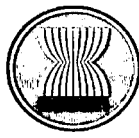
108. Mr. Ekkaphab Phathavong, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, expressed appreciation to Timor-Leste for the excellent arrangements of the FFM and to Cambodia for its support and leadership as ASEAN Chair 2022. He noted that the FFM contributes to achieving one of Cambodia's chairmanship priorities. Moving forward, the ASEAN Secretariat reaffirmed its continued support to ASEAN Member States in facilitating the next steps and any necessary actions. He informed the Meeting that the ASEAN Secretariat will consolidate the information obtained from the FFM and reflect it in ASCC Assessment Report, for inputs and feedback from ASEAN Member States based on their observation. Upon completion of the three fact-finding missions, a comprehensive assessment report of ASEAN on Timor-Leste's membership application will be prepared for deliberation by the ASEAN Coordinating Council. ASEAN Secretariat will continue to facilitate the involvement of Timor-Leste in capacity building activities as offered by the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. He noted with appreciation that Timor-Leste has participated in some activities, and encouraged Timor-Leste's active participation based on the approved list of capacity building activities. He congratulated ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste for achieving the objectives of the FFM, and expressed appreciation to all involved for making the FFM possible.
109. In his closing remarks, Dr. Dy Khamboly, SOCA Chair and Head of ASEAN delegation, highlighted that the FFM has provided an opportunity to obtain rich information and witness Timor-Leste's efforts in fostering socio-cultural development, as well as on how they will potentially align with ASEAN's. He noted that the FFM has facilitated fruitful discussions with more than 26 entities, which considerably covered all areas of ASCC pillar. He further affirmed that the information was useful in preparing the ASCC Assessment Report for the consideration of the ASEAN Coordinating Council. He expressed appreciation to all delegates from ASEAN Member States, including the SOCA Leaders, Chairs of Sectoral Bodies, and the ASEAN Secretariat for their support and participation. He looked forward to continued communication between ASEAN and Timor-Leste to ensure progress and acceleration of Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership.
110. H.E. Signi Chandrawati Verdial, Vice Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) of Timor-Leste, expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Member States for their sincere and honest feedback. She assured ASEAN Member States that Timor-Leste will consider ASEAN Member States' feedback seriously, in particular on resilience and sustainability. She highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the country to think about reform needed for the future. She shared that Timor-Leste is doing wide consultation on its strategic plan to anticipate emerging issues such as disasters and emergencies. On social protection, she acknowledged ASEAN Member States' concerns on potential sustainability issue, and Timor-Leste is learning from social security schemes from other countries. She informed the ASEAN Member States that adequate law is in place to separate the social security fund from the state budget, and Timor-Leste is developing a legal framework on the fund investment strategy for the future. She assured that Timor-Leste also learned from the experiences of other countries and applied it in accordance with its needs and context. In health sector, she informed the Meeting

that Timor-Leste is planning to work on infrastructure development, including hospitals and airport, next year. She highlighted that the Prime Minister plans to visit Australia to receive an award from a university for successfully managing COVID-19 pandemic. Timor-Leste is also undergoing public finance management reform, and many other reforms are on the way to ensure effective governance. She further shared that Timor-Leste has a lot more to share with ASEAN Member States that the FFM was unfortunately not able to cover in such short time, such as more government institutions and initiatives on social security and youth entrepreneurship.

111. The President of Timor-Leste, H.E Dr. José Ramos Horta, during the cocktail following the exit meeting with the ASEAN delegates, highlighted that Timor-Leste has made tangible progress politically, economically and in the area of socio-cultural. Therefore, the President of the Republic expressed his hope that ASEAN member countries could consider the accession of Timor-Leste to the community of Southeast Asian region in the near future. The President of the Republic took this opportunity to extend his gratitude for the contributions from ASEAN member states to assist Timor-Leste in its effort to comply with all the accession requirements. He also expressed that it would be great for Timor-Leste to conclude this journey to join the ASEAN community during the chairmanship of the Republic of Indonesia.



CMoEA



ASEAN



SSE

VISIT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
(UNDER COORDINATING MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS)

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Fact-Finding
Mission (FFM) to Timor-Leste

6-8 July 2022
Dili, Timor-Leste

Outline Presentation

- Introduction
- Profile Institution
- Priority Institution
- Program Action and Results
- Specific Actions
- Partnership
- Documentation

□ INTRODUCTION

2 Program

7 Sub Program

22 Activity

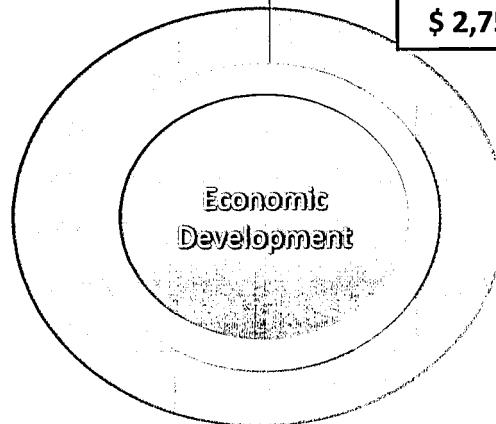
19 Action Plan

Program and Result

1. Economic Development
2. Environment

1. Good Governance and Institutional Management

IM : 266 staff (2000-2022)
11 Directorate (2 Agency 9 Dir)
23 Department



State Budget

SW : \$ 719.676

GS : \$ 1,381.620

Tran: \$ 265.000

MC: \$ 177.000

\$ 2,753.596.00

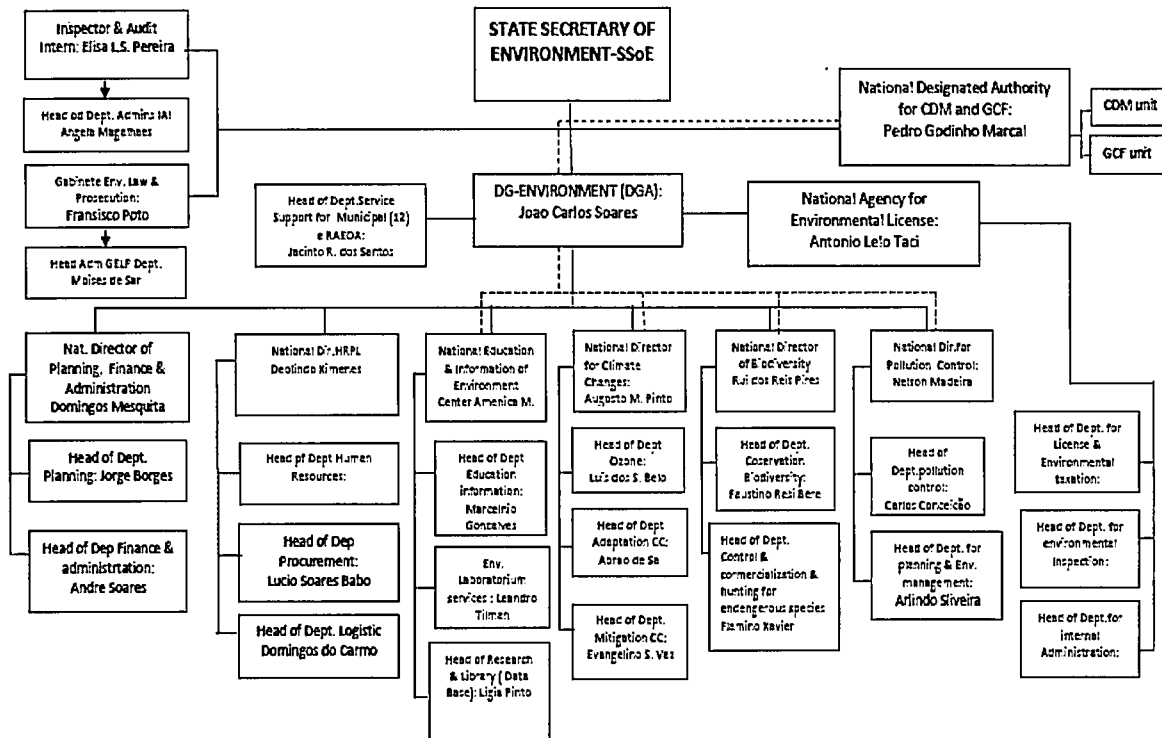
Environment

2. Environmental Protection and Conservation, Biodiversity, Climate Changes and International Cooperation

Introduction

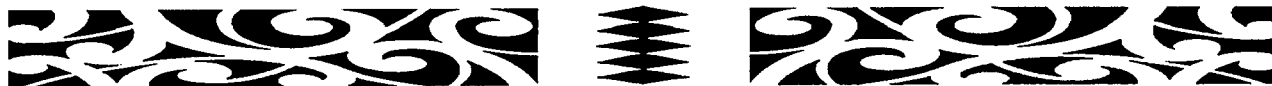
- **Environmental** issue is one of the critical issues that has been taken **into consideration** by the GoTL
- The National Constitution has covered **the importance** of environmental protection and its conservation
- National Constitution Article 6 (f) the objective of the state is ***to protect the environment and to preserve natural resources, Article 61 and 139***
- The Secretariat of State for Environment (**SSE**) has been **mandated to coordinate and implement** Policies, Laws, Regulations, Programs and Actions for environmental protection and its management
- Currently, the SSE is under the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs

STATE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT STRUCTURE



International Climate Government

- Timor-Leste Ratified UNFCCC in 2006
- Timor-Leste Ratified UNCCD in 2003
- Timor-Leste Ratified UNCBD in 2006 and Party Member in 2007
- TL Ratified Kyoto Protocol in 2008
- TL Ratified agenda for SDG and adopted in 2015
- TL Ratified Paris Agreement in 2017
- TL Become are member of UNFCCC and have the obligation to submit document of NAPA, INDCs and INC request by UNFCCC Secretariat
- Submitted NAPA in 2011
- Submitted INCs in 2014
- In 2016 Timor-Leste submitted INDCs in to Paris Agreement
- In 2020 Timor-Leste Submitted SNC to Secretariat of UNFCCC
- In 2022 Timor-Leste prepare final draft NDC to Council of Minister
- In 2021-2025 document of NAP was submitted to UNFCCC Secretariat
- In 2022 TL prepare revision of NBSAP, Third National Communication, 7th National Report



Mission

“Vision statement:

To achieve a higher quality of life, human are at the center of concern for sustainable development. Indeed, people are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with the nature and the environment.



SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Adopt urgent measures to combat climate change and its impact

Strategic Development Plan (2030)

Timor-Leste, the strong bond between the Timorese people and the environment will be restored and our natural resources and our environment will be managed sustainably for benefit of all






Program, Action and Results

- Adaptation program and mitigation for climate changes it is consider part of economic recuperation; Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA) at the village level, cover 35% of the total villages (158 out of 452). Currently, the Secretariat of State for Environment, National Directorate of Climate Change (NDCC) has carried out assessments in 51 villages. guideline to integrate climate change in the sectoral planning
- Being party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, Timor-Leste, as a Least Developed Country (LDC) as well as a member of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), is well aware of the many decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) that facilitate technical and financial support to the LDCs for the production and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAP). Timor-Leste is pleased to present its NAP to the global community under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement



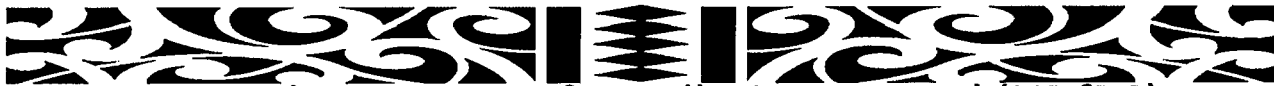
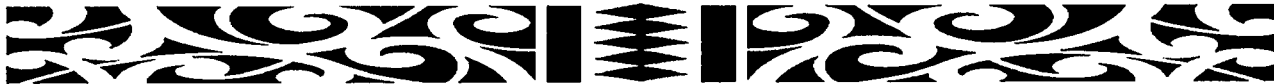
Continue.....

- Timor-Leste has been involving UN climate change negotiation process since 2007 to date via SBI, SBSTA, Ad Hoc Working Groups and COP/MOP
 - **COP13 in Bali** (2007) was the first COP for TL then, **COP14** (Poland, 2008), **COP15** (Copenhagen, 2009), **COP16** (Mexico, 2010), **COP17** (Durban, SA, 2011), **COP18** (Qatar, 2012) resulting amendment of Kyoto Protocol, **COP19** (Warsaw Poland, 2013), **COP20** (Lima, Peru, 2014), **COP21** (Paris, France, 2015) resulted Paris Agreement, COP 22 (Paris, 2016), COP 23 (Bonn, 2017) COP 24 (Katowice, 2018) COP 25 (Madrid 2019) COP 26 (Glasgow, 2021) prepare for COP 27 (Egypt, 2022)
 - TL has been negotiating loss and damage issues on behalf of LDCs since 2009
 - Undertaking Initial National Communication (INC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2009 with aim to provide country report on national GHG emissions, mitigation and adaptation measures
 - SNC report was submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in 2018 (prepare for TNC)
- 



National Directorate for BIODIVERSITY (NDfB)

- NBSAP and 6NR 2011-2020 (National Biodiversity Strategy for Action Plan) now prepare for revision; The NBSAP uses the ecosystems approach in efforts toward the maintenance of ecosystems services and functions; provision of food, water and fuel; improvement of cultural services; restoration of habitat; regulation of climate; and pollination or dispersal of seed.
- Ex-sito and In-sito Conservation , Endengerous Species conservation and recuperation, Crocodile management (Flora and Fauna Conservation and Protection)
- Genetic Resources Management (ABS program on Nagoya Protocol) research and collect flora genetic in Baguia (Baucau) and Makadade (atauro) work with Nimura Research Center (Japan) to establish Laboratories Herbarium (under ABS program) develop environmental laboratory
- Conservation Coral Reef, establishment of Marine and Terrestrials Protected area work with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Conservation International Agency
- Mapping for Biodiversity Resources (13 District) wetland and catchment area
- Community participatory on economy value tree plating in order to protect and prevent erosion, landslide, emission reduction, run off, sedimentation etc.



National Directorate for Pollution Control (NDfPC)

In general, institutions dealing with pollution problems require several tools: legal basis and supporting equipment.

Legal Basis

- Constitution of RDTL, Article 6 (Objectives of the State), f) Protect the environment and preserve natural resources
- Constitution of RDTL in Article 61 (Environment)
- Decree Law 26/2012, ENVIRONMENT BASIS LAW
- Decree Law no 15/2019 ORGANIC REGULATION OF THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, on Article 6 National Directorate for Pollution Control.
- DECREE LAW 37/2020, DISPOSAL, IMPORT AND PRODUCTION OF BAGS, PACKAGING AND OTHER ITEMS OF PLASTIC.

Type of equipment to control pollution in TL

- *Supporting Equipment*
- Basically, NDfPC does not yet have full supporting equipment, there is no Law on Pollution Control, Environmental Standards, laboratories, and so on.

NDfPC progress achieved

- Provide income to the state treasury through the transportation of dirty oil to control the activities of the Hera and Betano power plants, with a total transportation cost of USD 40,000 from January - May 2022 and will increase in June 2022.
- Based on decree law 37/2020, the State Secretary for the Environment, through the National Directorate of Pollution Control has deposited TAX by importing plastic and packaging and other plastic goods into BNU's bank account worth USD 18,455.90 which will increase in the coming months.





National Designation Authority (NDA)

Establishment of the NDA to :

- ❖ Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategic
- ❖ Formulating regulation for clean development mechanism (CDM)
- ❖ and DNA to deal with carbon credit and the regulation is now in place
- Total GCF Climate Finance Mobilized
- ❑ Funded Activities: Total grant for 3 projects: USD \$ 53,316.805
 - UNDP : USD \$ 22,356.805
 - UNEP: USD \$ 20,980.000
 - JICA : USD \$ 9,980.000
- ❑ Readiness program: Total grant for 4 Readiness: USD \$ 1,800.000
 - UNDP : USD \$ 300.000
 - NDCC: USD \$ 700.000
 - UNEP-CTCN: USD \$ 300.000
 - FAO : USD \$ 500.000
- ❑ Grand Total of funded activities and readiness approved by GCF: USD \$ 55,116.805 (Grant)



GEF (Global Environmental Facility)

UNFCCC

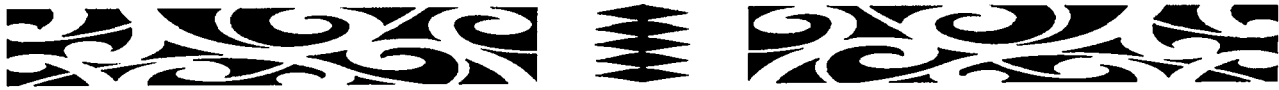
- Formulation of National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) (UNDP-SSE) --\$200k
- SSRI (UNDP-MSA) -- \$4,6M
- DARDC (UNDP - MSS) -- \$5,2 M
- Manatuto-Natarbora Corridor (ADB) -- \$4,5 M
- INC (UNDP-SSE) \$400k
- SNC & INDC (UNDP - SSE) \$1M
- National Adaptation Plan - CCCD
- Building shoreline climate resilience - Mangrove Rehab. (UNDP - MAF) \$7M
- Building resilience in health sector (WHO - MoH) --\$1,7M
- CPDP: Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Urban Services Sector in TL (ADB) \$3M
- Promoting sustainable bio energy production from biomass (UNDP - MoPW -EDTL) - \$1,7
- Up scaling climate proofing in the transport sector in TL sector wide approaches (ADB) - \$4,5M
- REGIONAL PROJECTS (UNEP-TNA phase IV,

UNCBD

- National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan, the First & Third National Report to CBD, Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism (UNDP -SSE), \$277k
- Securing the Long-term Conservation of Timor Leste Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through the Establishment of a Functioning National Protected Area Network and the Improvement of Natural Resource Management in Priority Catchment Corridors (Conservation Int. - MAF, SSE) \$3,M
- Establishing the National Framework and Operational Capacity for Implementing the Nagoya Protocol in Timor Leste (UNEP-SSE) \$1,3M
- IKAN Adapt: Strengthening the adaptive capacity, resilience and biodiversity conservation ability of fisheries and aquaculture-dependent livelihoods in Timor-Leste (FAO -MAF) \$4,4 M
- 5th National Report (UNEP-SSE) \$200k
- REGIONAL PROJECTS (6th National Report, UNDP-ATSEA2, FAO-MAF Enabling Transboundary Cooperation for Sustainable Management of the Indonesian Seas \$4M, Dugong and Sea grass protection and Conservation Project \$800k, CTI

UNCCD

- Capacity Building in and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management in East Timor (UNDP - MAF) \$ 475k
- Support to 16 GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD (UNEP - MAF) \$1M



National Agency for Environmental Licensing (NAEL)

- According to the result in the past time the certificates of Environmental license issued were less than 50 projects annual, however after the establishment of NAEL in early 2019, until now SSoE through NAEL have been producing 200-300 licenses (free from taxation)

How the proponent apply for the license

- The first step, the proponent must submit" project document to NAEL which contains a description of the project and its likely impacts, based on the PD, NAEL classifies the project as A-B-C depending on the likely impact of the development

How many days for application

- Category A (potentially cause adverse impact)
- Category B (the project may cause some env. Impact)
- Category C (the project likely cause little impact)



CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION (CEIA)

- **Building strong activism, voluntarism, and the promotion of Communal Action for Sustainable Environment through Ecosystem Restoration, Environmental Education, and Environmental Resilience to Climate-Induced Disasters**
- The establishment of the Environmental Brigade could be an alternative way to help youth participation to minimize the environmental problems. Environmental brigade can contribute their environmental action for soil management, cleaning up beaches, recycling activities, tree planting, forest conservation, water catchment conservation and restoration, environmental education, bush fire control, and other urban environmental management.
- 450 Brigade, develop 2.043 ha terrace (terasering) nurse soil; Establishment of 730 ha for erosion barrier Solid waste collection on coastal area 695 ton
- Tree planting in 21 Zone (buffer zone and coastal zone) around 5202 trees
- Conducting participatory student on Green School on 3R program in 8 District in order to Scaling up best practices for conservation, environmental restoration, and other best practices, including reviving local knowledge for environmental protection and conservation





ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL AND PROSECUTION (GJPA)

Legal based Arrangement: Laws, Policies and Plans for Environmental Management

- RDTL Constitution Article 61, paragraph 6
 - Codigo Penal 9/2009 (article 215-221)
 - Decree Law Environmental License 5/2011
 - Environmental Base Law 26/2012
 - DL no 36/2012 Ozone Depleting Subsistence import and export control
 - Decree Law 6/2020 Biodiversity Conservation
 - DL 37/2020 Disposal , import and production of single use bags, packaging and other plastic object
 - Climate Changes Policy
 - Environmental Policy and Environmental Road Map 2050
- 

PARTNERSHIP

- UNEP
- UNDP
- EU
- FAO
- JICA
- CI
- ADB
- WB
- USAID
- AUSAID
- KOICA
- MERCY CORPS
- HEINAKEN

- MoF
- MAP
- MAE
- MS
- MOP
- SEPC
- AMKTL
- HASATIL
- HABURAS
- PERMATIL
- FONGTIL
- HATUTAN
- CALTECH



Participate in COP and Bilateral meeting with parties



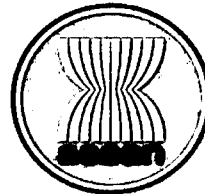
Tibar Sludge oil Center



450 volunteer Brigade and their activities



Integrated vulnerable Assessment



Thank you
Obrigado



Introduction to Organization

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FORESTRY, COFFEE AND INDUSTRIAL PLANTS THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR- LESTE

Organic Law and Objective

Based on the Government Decree-Law No.19/2019-Organic Law of MAF dated 31st July Article, the following are the detailed tasks attributed to the:

DGFCIP is responsible for ensuring the general guidance and integrated coordination of all MAF services with the competencies in the areas of forests, nature conservation, coffee, and industrial plantations, based on the central Government programs, MAF policies, and program guidelines.

Structure



- **SDP revision**

Major Facilities and Human Resources



- **1 National Office; Supported by 150 Staffs**
- **14 Municipal Office; Supported by 180 Staffs**
- **Forests Ranger; Supported by 230 Rangers**
- **35% Staff are women**
- **60% Staff are Secondary Schools graduated**
- **40% Staff are Forestry and Agriculture Sciences Qualified (Undergraduates and Masters Degree. No PhD)**

Specific policies currently pursued

Constitutional:

1. Article 60 (point 1) on the Environment
2. Article 139 (Point 1) on the Natural Resources

Laws

1. Parliament Law 14/2017, Forest Regime
2. Decree Law on Environment, 2012
3. Decree Law 6/2020, Biodiversity Protection and Conservation Judicial Regime (Regime jurídico da proteção e conservação da biodiversidade)
4. Decree Law 19/2019, MAF Organic, Junta 58/2020, Primeira alteração ao Decreto-Lei n.o 19/2019, de 31 de julho, que aprova a Orgânica do Ministério da Agricultura e Pescas
5. Decree Law 26/2022, Support Mangrove Replanting Program (Programa de apoio à plantação de "Ai Parapa")
6. Decree Law 27/2022, Coffee Rehabilitation Support Program (Programa de estímulo à renovação e expansão das áreas de plantação de café)
7. Decree Law 5/2016, National Protected Areas System
8. Government Resolution 7/2007, Forestry Sector Development Policy
9. Government Resolution 3/2016, Cria o Jardim Botânico Francisco Xavier do Amaral
10. Government Resolution 8/2007, Cria o Parque Nacional Nino Konis Santana (Establishment of Nino Konis Santana National)
11. Government Resolution 38/2015 Cria o Parque Nacional Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão (Establishment of Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão National Park)
12. Government Resolution 11/2017, Dia Nacional do Sândalo e das Florestas (National Day Sandalwood and Forest)

Specific policies currently pursued

Strategies' Document:

1. National Development Strategy Plan, 2011-2030
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Strategy Plan 2021-2025
3. Agroforestry Strategy, 2022
4. Community Forestry Strategy, 2022
5. National Park Site Management Plan, 2017
6. National Bamboo Development Strategy, 2019
7. Coffee Sector Development Strategy, 2019-2030

Request for ASCC Roadmap

