

TO PROTECT AND TO SERVE



Photo by OCPI-UNTAET

The first class of 50 East Timorese police cadets taking their oath of service during graduation ceremonies at the Timor Lorosa'e Police Training College campus in Comoro, Dili. See page 4 for story and more photos.

Diaspora bring their skills home

East or west, the saying goes, home is best. But for the East Timorese in the diaspora, this cliché has a deeper significance now.

"It's a great feeling to be back and helping my country during the transition phase," 28-year-old Luisa Aniceto says, capturing the feelings of many East Timorese who have recently returned to their country of birth after spending most of a lifetime in exile. "I can't explain how important it is for me to be here."

As fate would have it, Ms. Aniceto left her motherland at the age of three, as part of the mass exodus of East Timorese after Indonesia's annexation in 1975. She came back in December 1999, and immediately secured a job with the UNTAET administration.

The Dili-born woman is now part of a patriotic core group of professional Timorese who previously lived abroad but are now committed to rebuilding their country. "We are merely acting as a bridge, the link between the local people and foreigners

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Coping with psychological trauma: a family affair

Antonio had difficulties sleeping. Each night his militia past came back to haunt him. His nightmares, with people screaming, enveloped in blood and fire, incessantly kept him awake, exhausted him to the point that he could not eat. Some days, he would just sit, listless, staring at the walls for hours.

Antonio was one of the many East Timorese men who were forced to join the militia last year. Although he managed to stay out of the killing and eventually escaped to the mountains to join his friends, the painfulness of what he had witnessed and the notion that somehow he was complicit in it kept haunting him.

João had become addicted to alcohol, each night drinking himself into a stupor. Even though he'd tried, he couldn't give it up. Alcohol helped him forget what had happened to his family. His parents had been killed by the militia as an act of revenge after João had escaped from the place where he was kept, interrogated and tortured because of his activist involvement. His sister was taken from their parents' house one night and when they brought her back, she had been raped by several men from TNI. Not only did she lose her virginity that night, she also lost her chance of a future married life with kids of her own. Which man would still want to marry her?

These two men are just an example of

the trauma many East Timorese have experienced and its lingering effects. "Many people here are suffering from trauma in one way or another. The prolonged oppression, with all its hardship, sorrow and difficulties, even torture and massacres, has left many scars which will take time to heal. And sometimes not only time, but specific assistance," said Dr. Silove from Pradet (Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor), during a four-day National Mental Health and Psychosocial Recovery Consultation at the SPK Nursing School in Lahane, Dili, from 20-23 June.

As Dr. Silove explained, there are different kinds of "traumatizing experiences". There is the life-threatening situation, or loss of home and possessions or even worse, loss of a loved one. Other traumatizing experiences include being forced to endure injustice, or having one's role or identity disrupted; or losing faith in life and in its very meaning.

"In most cases, people are just upset and stressed," said Dr. Silove, "which translates into difficulty sleeping and maybe also eating. Some might seek refuge in alcohol or drugs, as they are feeling angry and frustrated. But most of these feelings will disappear, given enough time and the right environment. In some cases though, a person can become so preoccupied by severe grief that it really makes him or her sick and disabled with specific clinical manifestations."

These symptoms can be apathy (such as staring at a wall for days) or anorexia (unwillingness to eat). Or one might become delusional (hearing voices) or paranoid (thinking that someone is following them, maybe even out to kill them), or schizophrenic (thinking that they are God or some

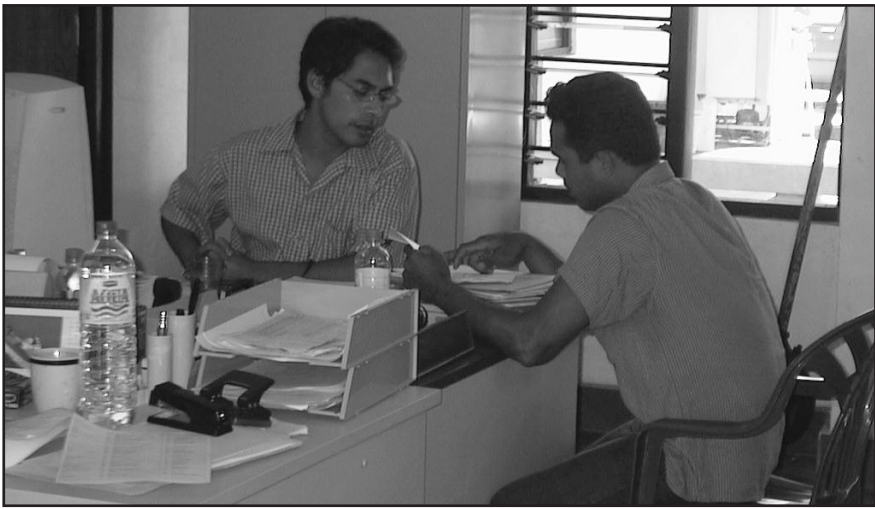
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Photo by OCPI-UNTAET

A woman cradles her recently born grandson, whose mother became mentally ill about four years ago while still living with her husband and four other children.





Fernando Pires (left) talking to a visitor in his office at the Save the Children Federation in Dili. Fernando lived in Australia for 24 years before coming to East Timor last December to help rebuild his country.

Diaspora bring ... continued from page 1

who are here to assist," says Fernando Pires, an employee of the Save the Children Federation, an international non-governmental organization (NGO) in Dili. He is now happy, he says, to make a contribution to his changing motherland, a country that he was forced to leave at the age of eight, resettling in Dili again last December.

"I tell our people that we are faced with a different set-up," explains Mr. Pires. "With the end of the independence struggle, now is the time to take real responsibility."

Mr. Pires spent the better part of his youth in Melbourne, Australia, where he was exiled for 24 years. Typical of other Timorese in the diaspora, the young man tried to maintain a symbolic attachment to his roots, affiliating himself with cultural groups and other organizations devoted to the East Timor cause.

The theatres in Melbourne, Lisbon and Darwin, Australia, were the main platform for action for exiles like Mr. Pires. Drama played a cathartic role, he says, and served several functions. "One was to maintain our culture and, if need be, change it to make it more contemporary," recalls the keen artist who served for 10 years as coordinator of Suric, a Melbourne-based theatre group. "The other was to create a safe space for the Timorese abroad to say what happened to them in the past."

The activism of the Timorese in the diaspora contributed to drawing international attention to the independence movement, a fact demonstrated most significantly by the joint award of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize to Jose Ramos Horta and Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo. The former remains arguably the most prominent Timorese voice abroad.

But as the curtain falls on the dramatic

episodes of the country's traumatic past, East Timorese people in the diaspora are now at a crossroads. It is their moment of reckoning as they engage in profound soul-searching as to the role they can play in the new nation.

Already, a few have packed their bags destined for Dili. These returnees are a mixed tableau of professionals including scholars, businessmen, engineers, lawyers and doctors. Experts say that this is the kind of expertise and sacrifice the young nation needs at this critical moment in its history. But many have yet to return. Why?

The answer is complex, though interviews with a cross-section of people provide a clue. "Educated Timorese in the diaspora have a moral obligation to come back home and help," says Nidia Oliveira, who holds a Ph.D. in arbovirology (mosquito-borne viruses) and who recently came back to East Timor and secured a job at OXFAM, an international NGO.

Ms. Oliveira quit her job as a graduate research assistant at the University of Western Australia to make a fresh start in her home country. She had left East Timor as a four-year-old in 1975. Speaking in a voice tinged with nostalgia, the career academic says, "It does not matter how long people have been away as long as the willingness to come back is there."

In Perth, where Ms. Oliveira lived for 24 years, "many people are willing to return," she says, and they are keenly following political developments in East Timor. She estimates the Timorese population in Perth at about 1,000. "Well over 20,000 Timorese are said to be living in Australia, an additional 2,000 are believed to be in Portugal and smaller numbers are to be found in places like Macau, the United States and Africa," she says, quoting figures that are largely hearsay.

A Dili businessman, who prefers anonymity, remarks that it is good for Timorese living abroad to return and assist their fellow countrymen. "They should share their experience with the locals and guide them through this difficult period," he says. "It's not merely a question of taking jobs from those who have been living here. It is for the common good of the country."

A potential investor back in his homeland, Gill Mandeira looks forward to sharing his skills

as a musician trained in the latest studio recording technology in Australia with his counterparts in East Timor. "It is important for people to express themselves through dance and music," the ex-Perth resident says. "This is what I hope to promote in the new East Timor."

Not everybody is happy, though. "Those of us who are coming to set up shop here are viewed as cowards or opportunists," laments a Timorese of Chinese ancestry. "The locals say we will flee again if there's trouble. But we also suffered, our relatives' property was destroyed, and we now have to help them," he adds.

In retrospect, however, those who remained (and they are in the overwhelming majority) to advance the struggle on the home front say they have no ill feelings towards those who fled but are now eager to come back. "It depends on the person and his attitude," says Carlos Pinto, a Dili resident. "If they have a positive attitude then they are acceptable. But if they look down upon us, then that's a problem. We are all Timorese and are ready to live with one another."

However, standing in the way to homecoming for many people are formidable stumbling blocks, including personal commitments in their country of residence. "Many older people have financial obligations like mortgages and school tuition to pay and it is not easy to just board a plane and fly back," says Esmeralda Da Cruz, an UNTAET employee who trained in anthropology in Australia where she lived for 24 years before coming to East Timor in December 1999. "It's easy for a single person like me to make a decision to return, but for married ones, it's very different," says Ms. Da Cruz.

For some of the educated elite, or "divided Timorese" as they are sometimes described, loyalty is split down the middle between their academic world and the home country. To paraphrase a report conducted by Michael Casey in 1999, the few ethnic East Timorese holding higher qualifications such as doctorate degrees "are mostly former exiles living in places like Sydney or Lisbon, for whom starting a new life in Dili might be hard. Even so, World Bank staffers say they are impressed with the support they have found among the far-flung Timorese diaspora."

Still, there remains a reluctant group that harbor ambivalent feelings towards coming home, preferring to adopt a "wait and see" attitude. This group, says Ms. Oliveira, should "come and see" for themselves the progress made in the country in a record, short period of time.

East Timorese living abroad can apply to be repatriated under a programme for the Return of Qualified Nationals (RQN) organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Over the next three years, the programme aims to facilitate the return and professional reintegration of 300 skilled or qualified East Timor nationals to fill identified vacancies - jobs which cannot be filled by current East Timor residents or in which advanced additional technical skills are clearly required.

The Programme coincides with what many observers see as a boom in employment opportunities for skilled East Timorese, especially in the NGO sector, the private sector and the East Timor Administration's Civil Service and Public Employment (CISPE). "For those wishing to return, this is the best time," says Karin Freundenthal, CISPE information officer.

At press time, CISPE and IOM had advertised on the Internet 23 senior posts available only to Timorese nationals. They ranged from teaching positions at the Civil Service Academy to managerial and judicial affairs jobs.

"We are looking for Timorese abroad who would like to come home to work and contribute in the rebuilding of their own country," says Ahmed Dizdaveric, RQN programme administrator. "We are not taking away jobs from the locals. If there is a local available to take the job, then that's fine."

According to an official bulletin of IOM, the programme targets both the public and private sectors with a view to capacity building through the reintegration of professionals and managers into the economy. The programme also includes a self-employment option designed to attract entrepreneurs.

Assistance includes organized and paid transport for selected candidates and their families, an installation grant, a salary subsidy and a grant to provide candidates with the equipment that they will need to do the job. Eligible candidates include those with junior high school qualifications and higher. The successful ones are required to commit to remain in the post for one year. "We have received more than 20 applications," says Mr. Dizdaveric. "Two have already been placed while another two will be placed shortly."

Applicants are asked to contact IOM offices in Australia, Portugal, Indonesia, Hong Kong (including Macau), Mozambique and the United States or they can also directly contact Mr. Dizdaveric. He urges all private sector employers as well as local NGOs to approach IOM for assistance. **The contact for Ahmed Dizdaveric is: Telephone: 670.390.313165 Mobile 61.408.857015. Fax 670.390.312985. Email: iomdili@hotmail.com.**

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other person). "These people need more than just time and a right environment, they need intensive individual professional assistance in the form of medicines and counseling," Dr. Silove added.

There is no data available on the number of East Timorese who suffer from mental illnesses. Dr. Sergio Lobo, co-coordinator of the Interim Health Authority (IHA), estimates that it is a small percentage - perhaps 1 to 2 per cent - of the population, much smaller than one would expect. However, Dr. David Henderson of the Harvard Programme in Refugee Trauma thinks the number might be higher, around 10 per cent.

As to who is most vulnerable to mental illness, Dr. Lobo explained that "due to our Timorese culture, women have to keep things more inside, whereas it is accepted that men vent their anger and frustrations through drinking alcohol and even by beating their wives. But on the whole, I think men and women are suffering equally."

More information on numbers and gender-specific data will be available once the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture (IRCT) finishes a nationwide assessment that it is currently conducting for UNTAET on the psychosocial situation in East Timor.

Assistance for traumatized people is available in East Timor on a limited basis (see box), although not yet for the severely mentally ill. There are no institutional services such as mental health clinics, or psychiatrists, counselors or health workers specializing in mental health. There are, of course, general practitioners, but as Dr. Lobo says, "most Timorese would not go to see a doctor for a case of mental illness, as

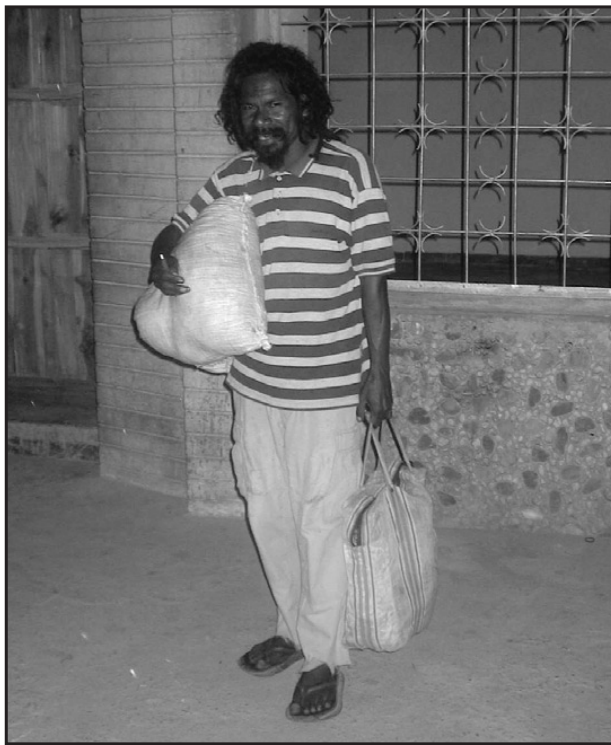


Photo by OCPH-UNTAET

A local victim of taunting and verbal abuse from people who do not understand mental illness.

they think such cases can't be helped. So in most cases, the family tries to keep a mentally ill person at home, even tying him or her up in cases of psychosis when they are threatening themselves or people around them. Some of them escape, or wander off. That's when you see them hanging around aimlessly on the street." (see picture)

Carmen's story is a sad example of this kind of situation. She is only 25 years old, but has just had her fifth baby, named Orlando. Carmen became mentally ill about four years ago, while she was living with her husband and four children. Her own brother, Jose, took her into his home after he discovered that her husband wasn't caring for her. He had kept her tied up night and day in wooden braces on a chair. Carmen lived with her

Different groups are already providing support for trauma recovery for most of the population. They include FOKUPERS, a women's organization which provides counseling sessions individually and in groups. A visiting doctor from the Philippines, Dr. Lopez, taught the group's staff her counselling techniques. FOKUPERS operates chiefly in Liquica, Maliana, Suai and Dili. Apart from counselling, it also provides shelter and is involved in advocacy and education. It does this mainly via its weekly publication "Babadok" and its radio programmes on Radio FALINTIL (Wednesday 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.) and Radio UNTAET (Friday 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.). Part of its educational activities is focused on reducing discrimination against rape victims and encouraging their acceptance in society.

The Child and Youth Development Programme (CYDP) helps youngsters by providing them educational and recreational opportunities. The programme is run by Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee and the Christian Children's Fund.

From Caritas, Roberto Cabral provides trauma healing via individual counselling sessions as well as via his biweekly "Healing through Memory" programme on Radio Kmanek (Friday 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and

Saturday 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.). He invites traumatized persons to share their experiences with the listeners, while giving advice on how to heal the wounds. The central message in his technique is that one has to learn to accept what has happened and should look at it as part of the struggle for freedom.

Take for example João and Antonio, the two traumatized men described at the beginning of the previous article. Mr. Cabral, in his radio interview with João, told him to accept what happened, and to look at it as a part of the freedom struggle, accept it as a contribution to the country. To Antonio, he suggested that he accept the fact that he hadn't volunteered to be in the militia. He had been forced. It was not his fault, he had no choice; it was the chain of events that forced him to join. He also urged Antonio to recognize that he had done a good thing by using his ability to help others by escaping and sharing the information of what he had witnessed.

As for help for severely mentally ill people, Pradet is currently the principal organization that is providing them help. Pradet (see next box) has plans to set up a psychiatric clinic and to help provide mental services with the help of a visiting psychiatrist, nurses and social workers. It also intends to help in the capacity building of East Timorese colleagues. So far, it has trained 14

brother until the violence broke out last September. Amidst all the panic and confusion, Jose lost track of her. Only months later did he find her. Someone had taken advantage of her, raping her and she was pregnant.

Now that Carmen has delivered the baby, she is restless and has run away several times from her brother's home. Jose doesn't know what to do or who to turn to for help, for answers. He wonders what's best to do when she tries to run away. What should he do when she cries? When she gets upset and starts slapping and lashing out at herself.

The National Mental Health and Psychosocial Recovery Consultation in Lahane attempted to fill the gap in understanding and support for Timorese struggling with trauma and mental illness. The conference was organized by Pradet (see box) at the request of the IHA. It included representatives from Jesuit Refugee Service, Caritas, ET Wave, FOKUPERS and Save the Children. A number of Australian health workers were also present. The main topic of discussion was how to support trauma recovery for most of the Timorese population by setting up psychosocial recovery programmes, and how to best care for the severely mentally ill.

Jim Tulloch, a co-coordinator of the Interim Health Authority, said that UNTAET would help mentally ill people by putting medicine that is particularly useful for mental illness on the East Timor Essential Drug List and making it available for free through the central pharmacy. In the meantime, while health policies and practices were being developed, he hoped that the different groups at the conference would coordinate their efforts to offer relief.

health and community workers in counselling during a seven-week course in Sydney. Another 36 students will follow, bringing the total number of trainees to 50 by May 2001.

Pradet is an organization that started in Australia when East Timorese exile groups arrived there and needed counselling. These East Timorese would end up in different "Trauma and Torture" centers in various states of Australia. Last year during the crisis these centers joined hands and formed a national group called Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor.

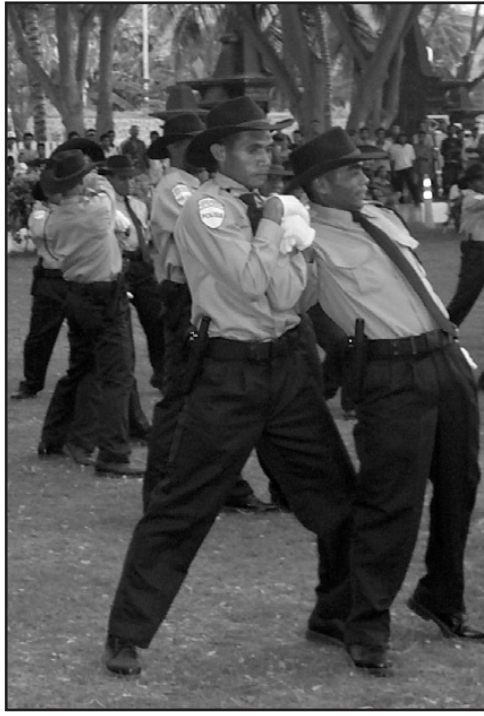
With the help of AusAID, Pradet came to East Timor in March to help meet the need for mental and psycho-social trauma recovery. Pradet, which is led by the medical branch of the University of New South Wales, is located at the Lahane Nursing School, SPK, where it has set up a psychosocial resource centre. A clinic will be based in a number of health service centres in Dili. To contact Pradet, call 321 097.

East Timorese police cadets demonstrating techniques for crowd control (below left), subduing suspects (second from left) and tae kwon do (bottom right) during graduation ceremonies on 11 July. They were among the first 50 graduates of the Timor Lorosa'e Police Training College.

The new officers, 38 men and 12 women, will be deployed in their home districts and receive additional on-the-job training in criminal investigation, traffic control, community policing and administration. After three months, the police officers will start a six-month probation period, during which they will get specialized training. They are set to become full-fledged police officers on 2 April 2001.

They will gradually take over responsibility for law and order when the UN Civilian Police begins to downsize. The second group of 50 cadets began training on 17 July. By June 2001, an estimated 500 Timorese will have been trained as police officers, on the way to an eventual police force of 3,000.

"These cadets went through a rigorous selection process. They have worked hard and succeeded in their efforts. They are pioneers," said Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello. "The role of women police officers will also be fundamental since they, more than men, will have the sensitivity to address the specific problems related to crimes against women, such as domestic violence and rape."



Photos by OCPH-UNTAET

Boy, 11, in emotional homecoming after 9 months in West Timor

Seeing her son for the first time in nine months, Alizia Mendoca broke down in tears, triggering a similar reaction in her husband and their estranged child, Alariko Exposto. Hugging and patting each other as they dabbed tears from their eyes, the trio was a portrait of family love and affection.

"I want to go back to school and learn," said 11-year-old Alariko, fondly clinging to his dad, Antonio Exposto. Alariko was a pupil at SDA 11 Payol, Dili, before his studies were abruptly ended by last year's turmoil. The boy, still too traumatized to speak freely, refused to be drawn into further conversation, clinging only to the comfort of his parents whom he had missed during his period of exile in West Timor.

"I have been having sleepless nights since 4 September when my son fled with his uncle to Atambua," explained Mr. Exposto. "What has happened today is too good to be true."

The dramatic reunion took place on 12 June at Batugade, a transit camp close to the East Timor border with Indonesian West Timor and which is now, in practice, the rendezvous point for separated relatives, friends and lovers. The area also serves as the major exit point for East Timor refugees returning by road from the West.

"We are acting as a go-between for people wishing to get re-united with their missing relatives," said Alec Wargo, a Field Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at Batugade. It was another hectic day for him as he was busy overseeing the voluntary repatriation of 151 refugees to East Timor. "It's a long way, difficult and requires hard work," he said, alluding to the repatriation process.

If repatriation appears challenging, then re-uniting minors with their parents is sometimes virtually a mission impossible. After making initial contact with his son through a tracing agency, Mr. Exposto went on 12 June to pick up his son at Batugade for the grand homecoming. But he got a rude shock when he was told that the boy had made an unprecedented U-turn, preferring instead to remain with his

uncle in the West.

It was only after the intervention of Mr. Wargo - who negotiated with the Indonesian soldiers to let the parents talk to the boy at the Atambua camp - that the father finally secured freedom for his son.

"He was simply terrified, worried," Mr. Exposto said. "He could not trust anybody. Until he saw me and his mother today, he was not will-



Antonio Exposto (right) embraces his son, Alariko, during their emotional reunion last month in Batugade.

ing to accompany anybody to Batugade."

Trust is apparently the key word. "People are still a little bit afraid to return," said Mr. Wargo, adding that the destiny of an estimated 120,000 refugees in the West is tied to the question of building trust.

"Information about East Timor is important because people do not get a lot of good news here," Mr. Wargo stressed. "They are thinking about security, politics back home and their overall future." Alienated from their familiar environment, the refugees yearn for news on East Timor. They snap up anything that will give them a bit of accurate information about conditions in their real home, adds Mr. Wargo.

Despite the hesitancy, the tide seems to be turning in favour of an increased number of returnees generally and child re-unification in particular, thanks to concerted diplomatic efforts. According to Eva Nordenskjord, UNHCR

Community Services Officer, the programme for child reunification has "taken speed." Her department is responsible for coordinating the re-unification exercise conducted largely in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a non-governmental organization.

Children, as the saying goes, are our common future, and if they are to grow up as responsible citizens they must have a solid parental upbringing. This is the philosophy underpinning the process of child reunification. "It's very common in crisis situations," said Ms. Nordenskjord, referring to the scourge of separation. But the caseload in East Timor is relatively low, mainly due to the support provided by the extended family structure in the country.

The IRC, whose mandate is to record all separated and unaccompanied children, has so far registered 494 minors in the period between November and May. "We have successfully contacted 132 families; 127 have been re-united while 107 remain unlocated," said Ivo Caldas, IRC's Field Assistant. He also noted that 78 children have been re-united through cross-border meetings. The organization's mail correspondence service reached 492 persons in West Timor. "This elicited 207 replies," he said.

Another programme managed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) targets unaccompanied children. The main difference between cases of unaccompanied and separated children is that while the former have no guardians or relatives to take care of them, the latter are living with a close family member, for example an uncle or grandparents.

The ICRC also deals with vulnerable cases, including the physically paralyzed and the displaced from other neighboring islands. "We have re-united 67 unaccompanied minors in addition to 248 other persons resettled with their families," said the ICRC's Caroline Guinchard.

Experts say communication and logistical constraints, coupled with the effects of misinformation campaigns waged in the camps, account for the erratic trend of repatriation in the recent past. But the mood now remains upbeat. "We are positive about the increasing number of returnees," concluded UNHCR's Mr. Wargo.

News Briefs

The National Consultative Council (NCC) has adopted a regulation **to establish a transitional cabinet**, which will include four East Timorese and four UNTAET representatives.

The East Timorese will hold the portfolios for Internal Administration, Infrastructure, Economy and Social Affairs; UNTAET will be responsible for Finance, Justice, Police and Emergency



CNRT Vice-President Jose Ramos Horta testifying at the hearings on a proposed new law-making body for East Timor.

Services and Political Affairs.

Meanwhile, a regulation "On the Establishment of a National Legislative Council" was discussed at a public hearing in which CNRT Vice-President Jose Ramos Horta testified as a witness. The NCC agreed to look into suggestions that an advisory committee comprised of professionals be established to give advice on regulations presented to the NLC.

In addition, the NCC called for the creation of a committee to hear complaints by the public. Membership of the NLC should also include more representatives from professional, youth and women's groups, according to the council. The current 15-member NCC, a quasi-cabinet and quasi-legislative body, will be dissolved at the first session of the National Legislative Council.

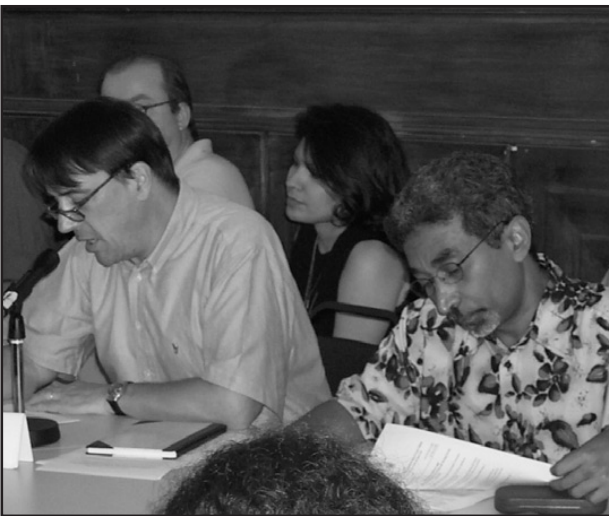
In the draft regulation under consideration, the NLC would consist of 33 East Timorese members from the political, religious and private sectors. The Transitional Administrator would have the final say in the approval of any draft regulation proposed to the cabinet by the NLC.

The NCC also adopted a draft regulation that lays the foundations for a new tax system in East Timor. The regulation **creates the East Timor Revenue Service (ETRS)** as the new collection

agency for taxes and introduces a comprehensive set of taxation procedures.

The ETRS started operating 1 July 2000 and is supported by a long-term technical assistance and training programme provided by the Australian Government. The programme includes A\$700,000 in training this year by taxation experts.

A new tax on services is also contained in the new regulation and will apply to various services supplied by restaurants, hotels, transport rental and telecommunications providers. The new tax is 10 per cent of the value of the service and went



Photos by OCPI-UNTAET

Peter Galbraith (left) and Mari Alkatiri during deliberations of the National Consultative Council.

into effect 1 July.

The Services Tax contains thresholds based on the monthly sales of the business before the tax will apply. For hotel, telecommunications providers or transport rental businesses, the threshold is US\$500 in total sales per month. If total sales in a month are less than this amount, no tax will be payable. For restaurants, a special phase-in threshold is proposed. Recognizing that a number of new and small restaurants were starting business in East Timor, the proposed threshold has been set at US\$1,000 for 1 July to 31 December. Starting 1 January 2001, the threshold will be reduced to US\$500 per month.

A seven-member multinational team from King's College Centre for Defence Studies at London University began an **independent study on the future of the security forces of East Timor**.

The team will produce a report within six weeks on the future security of East Timor, including possible profiles for a defense force. The group is studying the current security arrangements within the territory, relations between civilians and United Nations Peacekeeping staff, as well as making an in-depth analysis of the FALINTIL, the former liberation army.

The team began with a meeting with the FALINTIL Working Group at UNTAET

Headquarters. It then met members of the Portuguese, Australian and US missions. The team also traveled to FALINTIL's headquarters in Aileu, where they met commanders and veteran fighters of the five regions, as well as UNTAET's District Administrator.

The experts are from Germany, Mozambique, South Africa and the United States.

District prosecutors from Dili, Baucau and Oecussi **handed over the files** concerning investigations into serious crimes to UNTAET's Judicial Affairs Department. The crimes are as defined in Regulation 2000/15 on genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The serious crimes category also includes murder, sexual offences and torture on humanity between 1 January and 25 October 1999.

A special panel within Dili District Court, with the sole task of prosecuting and trying serious cases, will handle the cases. The panel is part of the East Timorese judiciary and comprises both Timorese and international judges.

The **first Transitional Employment Project (TEP)** started in Atauro island last month. The US\$3,900 project will cover clearing vegetation from roadsides and is expected to take about 40 days to complete. Forty-five Timorese workers and three supervisors are working under the project coordinated through the Dili District Administration.

UN Civilian Police (CivPol), together with the UN Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF) and UNTAET Security, **have started conducting road checks in Dili**. Some 70 vehicles were checked and five people without driving licences were discovered during the first day of inspections. One vehicle was seized.

A **measles vaccination campaign has just been concluded in Ermera** district. About 1,440 children have been inoculated in villages in the district so far. A Portuguese health organization, AMI, and UNTAET carried out the campaign. To date, some 4,000 children in East Timor have been inoculated against the disease.

A **pilot project to establish local committees to ensure law and order** has started in Dili. The committees will consult the UN Civilian Police (CivPol) in its daily operations, assist in conflict mediation and help tackle issues such as domestic violence. The committees will also facilitate dialogue between the police and the local community, and educate the population in law and order matters.

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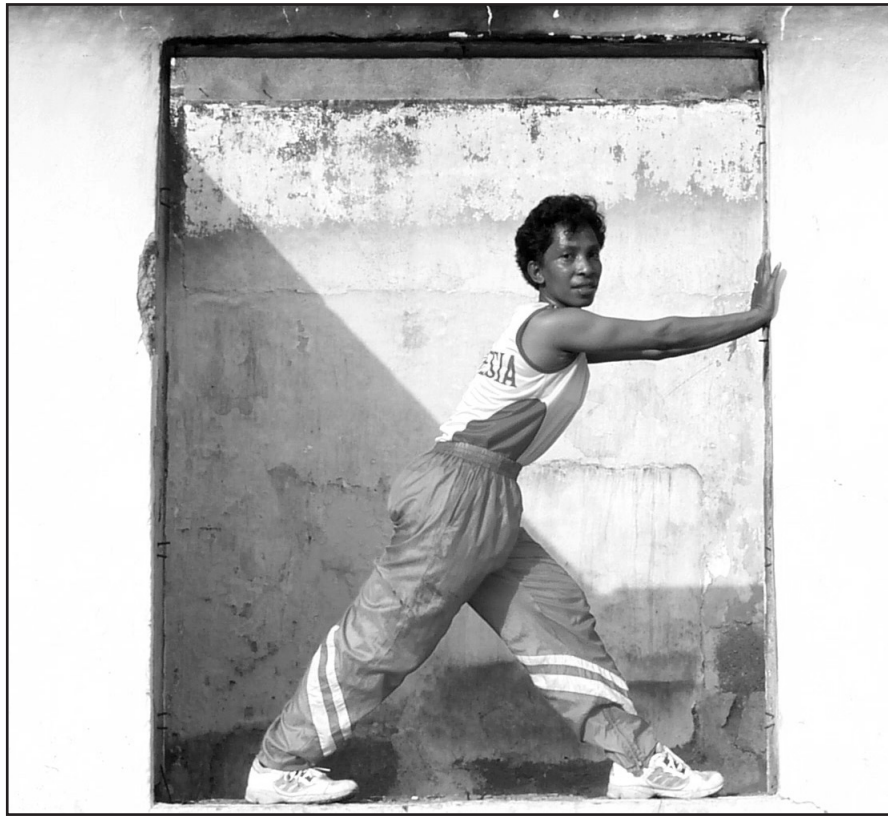
Feet of endurance: Timor's Olympic marathon hopeful

Aguida Amaral loves running - and she has since she was a little kid. Back then, she wasn't even the fastest amongst her friends. She became outstanding only after joining a sports club at age 12. That's when she started training hard. During one race, Dr. Peter Lobo noticed her potential. He was working at the time in Dili as a doctor for the Indonesian military (TNI). He asked Ms. Amaral's parents if he could become her personal trainer. She could stay with him and he would pay for her food, schooling and clothing.

For the next couple of years, Ms. Amaral lived with Dr. Lobo and trained every day from 5:00 a.m.

to 6:00 a.m. before going to school, and from 3:00 p.m. until dusk, running into the mountains, along the beach and through the streets of Dili.

When she was 15 years old Ms. Amaral grabbed the opportunity to study for a year at a sports school in Jakarta. She then returned to Dili to finish high school. At 18, she began a job as a civil servant. Her work afforded her the time to train and to enter competitions. And she needed a lot of time off - because at this point she was training daily and entering an increasing number of



Marathoner Aguida Amaral hopes to compete in the upcoming Olympic Games in Sydney. In 1994, she ran the 42 kilometres in 3 hours and 9 minutes.

international competitions. By 1989 she had become one of Indonesia's premier athletes - its fastest female runner.

Being the fastest woman in Indonesia took her to the Asian Games in the Philippines, the South East Asian (SEA) Games in China, and other races in India, Singapore and Malaysia. In all those races, Ms. Amaral placed second, except for India where she finished third.

Ms. Amaral, 28, says she enjoys visiting foreign places to compete, but says that's hardly the reason she does it. "Running just

makes me happy," she says. "I have to do it every day, I can't live without it. If I don't run, I start to feel sick." So she has kept on running, even after her running shoes and clothes were destroyed in the post-election violence last September; even though she became separated from her trainer who, being Indonesian, had to return to Kupang, West Timor, when the results of the ballot were announced.

Ms. Amaral says she was delighted when she heard of her selection as one of the 10 East Timor athletes who would receive two months pre-Olympic training in Australia.

"I am so grateful to Jose Ramos Horta and to João Carrascalão," she says. "And also to João's wife, Rosa. She gave me a pair of sports shoes, and three pairs of sports socks." And is she going to use those shoes to run in the Olympics if she is one of the two who are ultimately chosen for the Sydney games? For training, yes, she says, but for the Olympics, "I prefer to run barefooted. It feels much lighter."

Ms. Amaral, who has two daughters, ages 4 and 6, doesn't worry about her own advancing years. "For marathon runners, this age is very good. We get better the older we are." Her chief concern, however, is the lack of food that Timorese athletes have been getting. She says she used to eat eggs and milk every day. Now she can only afford bread and tea. "I can feel it when I am running, but it is not going to stop me."

It seems as if nothing is going to stop her. "I will do my utmost, not only for myself, but also for the sake of our newly independent nation and to set an example for the group of kids I am currently training," she says. "I want to show them that if you try hard, you can reach a lot of things."

Photo by OCPHUNTAET

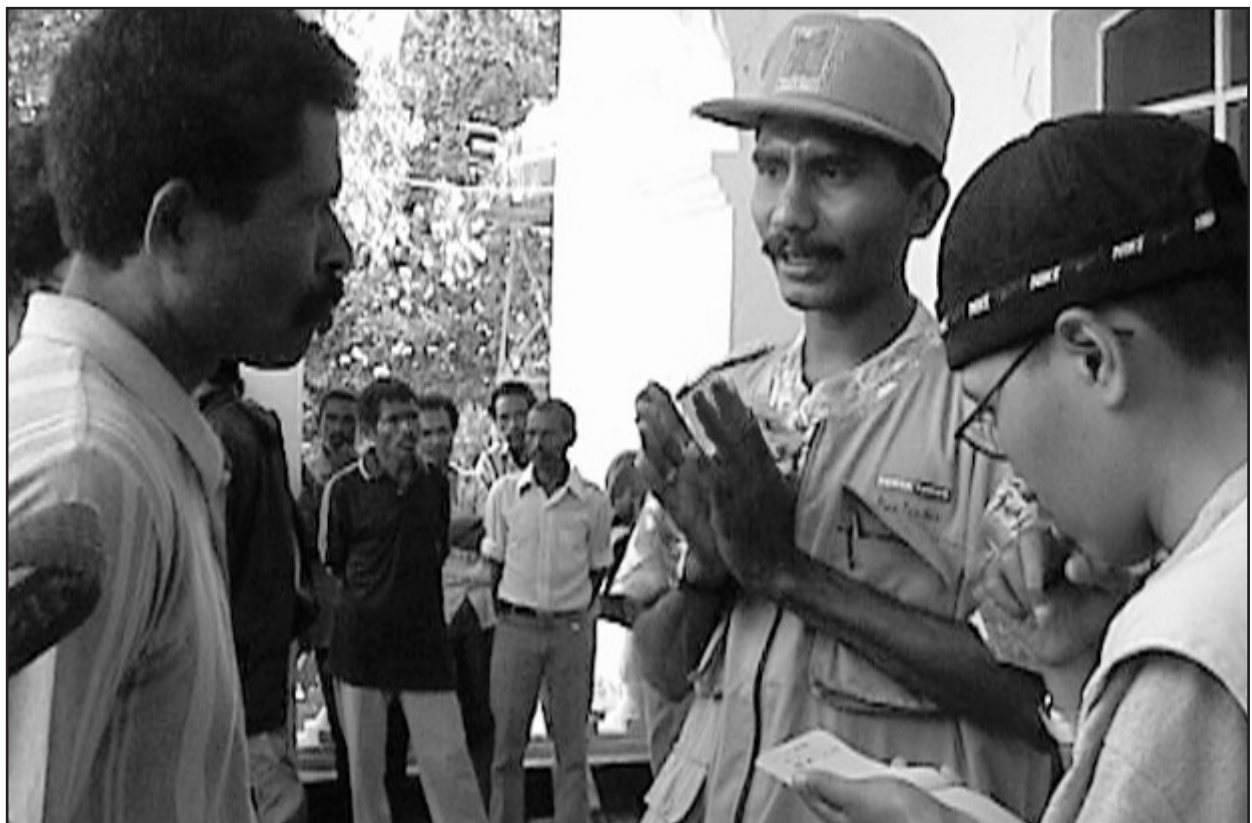
West Timor journalists take first-hand look at Dili

For the first time since the popular consultation last August, five journalists from Kupang, West Timor, visited East Timor. During their five-day stay, the group met UNTAET and CNRT leaders, businessmen, future Timorese police officers and people on the street. In Liquica, the journalists met a group of some 40 former militia members who were successfully reintegrated into their communities after returning home from West Timor.

Soon after their arrival in Dili, the journalists admitted their surprise at the normalcy of life in the East Timor capital. They saw Timorese driving cars, kids going to school, the market full of buyers and restaurants and stores open.

"When I left Dili the last time on 7 September, the city was a sea of fire," said Mans Balawala, a reporter from the newspaper Surya Timor who lived in Dili for a year until the ballot. "I am very surprised. After only eight months, everything changed so fast."

Asiel Soruh, from the NTT Express, said he certainly didn't expect to see such a strong economy and security after such a short time. He said he was also impressed with the kindness that he saw among the East Timorese. "I didn't see any aggressive or revengeful feelings," Mr. Soruh



Two West Timorese journalists interviewing former militia in Liquica on 6 July.

said. "The East Timorese were all very kind."

The journalists' visit was a result of a meeting in Dili in June between West Timor Governor Piet Tallo and the Transitional Administrator, Sergio Vieira de Mello, CNRT President Xanana

Gusmão and Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo. They decided that an exchange of journalists from East and West Timor would be an important additional measure to accelerate repatriation of the refugees still in West Timor.

Photo by OCPHUNTAET

World Sport News

EAST TIMORESE PARTICIPATION IN SYDNEY OLYMPIC GAMES

Accompanied by the President of the National Olympic Committee, José Ramos-Horta, 10 East Timorese athletes left for Darwin, Australia, on 13 July, with the Sydney Olympic Games as their ultimate destination.

In Darwin, the athletes were under the supervision of the Australian Institute of Sports. Before starting on their training, the athletes met the director of the Arafura Games, a regional sports event. Discussions centred on East Timor's inclusion in next year's Arafura Games in which countries from the Pacific and provinces in Indonesia bordering Northern Australia will participate.

The International Olympic Committee recently gave East Timor the green light to participate in boxing, track and field, tae kwon do and weightlifting events.

Weightlifter Jaime Lay is one the Timorese athletes chosen to train for the Sydney Games. Mr. Lay works out using transmissions and



Martinho do Araujo



Mariana D Ximenes



Calisto da Costa



Aguida Amaral



Jaime Lay

Athlete Biographies

Aguida Fatima Amaral (Dili, 1972) Marathon; between 1989 and 1992 took part in many national and international competitions such as the Asian Games and the South East Asian (SEA) Games. Won gold medal in national competition in 1989.

Calisto da Costa (Dili, 1979) Marathon; since 1997, took part in many national competitions as well as an international competition in Manila. Bronze medal winner in 1999 national marathon competition.

Mariana Diaz Ximenes (Baucau, 1980) Marathon.

Martinho do Araujo (Dili, 1973) Weightlifting.

Jaime Lay (Dili, 1978) Weightlifting; 1995 bronze medallist in national competition in Jakarta.

Victor Ramos (Bobonaro, 1970) Boxing; from 1985 to last year participated in numerous national and international competitions - including the SEA Games, Asian Games and Malaysia Cup - in the 57 kilo category.

Rogério Amaral Soares (Viqueque, 1973) Boxing; fought in the Asia Cup, Singapore Cup, Mayors Cup, King's Cup and Seoul Cup between 1993 and 1997 in the 67 kilo category.

Cesar Pinto (Viqueque, 1978) Boxing; took part in many national competitions between 1996 and 1998.

Gil Alvares Fernandez (Los Palos, 1977) Tae kwon do.

Utcho Flamingo (Ambon, 1976) Tae kwon do.



Victor Ramos



Rogério A Soares



Cesar Pinto



Gil A Fernandez



Utcho Flamingo

other car parts. "There's nothing left of our old equipment; all of it was burnt and destroyed so car parts in a friend's house are our exercise equipment," he says.

According to UNTAET Olympic Programme organizer Frank G. Fowlie, the training facilities in East Timor would be adequate for the 10 athletes. "They've got good training here, they just need to get a proper international level of training," says Mr. Fowlie.

Victor Ramos, East Timor's best-known boxer, says that he would be very happy to represent his country and its people at the Olympics. But what would it feel like to confront his former Indonesian boxing colleagues in the ring? "Outside the ring we are friends, but when we are inside, we are enemies," he says.

Euro 2000

France became the first country in 26 years to win the Euro Cup and the World Cup in consecutive tournaments, beating Italy in overtime after playing to a scoreless draw in regulation.

Appearing in its second European final, France evened the score in the second half of extra time on a Sylvain Wiltrod goal and later won on the "golden goal" by David Trezequet.

Germany was the first to capture the two crowns, winning the 1972 World Cup and 1974 Euro Cup.

France advanced to the final with a 2:1 victory in the semifinals over Portugal, which had beaten Turkey, 2:0. Italy dumped the Netherlands 3:1 in its semifinal match. Holland has reached the final four by trashing Yugoslavia with a superb 6:1 win; Patrick Kluivert scored four goals in the rout.

Left out of the big dance were perennialists such as **Germany, England** and **Belgium**, kicked out of the tournament while underdog teams such as Romania and Turkey were making football history for their countries.

Transfer market

Joao Pinto sent a loud message to England's Aston Villa and Italian club Fiorentina, who were reportedly interested in the Portuguese striker, after signing to stay in his country with **Sporting Lisbon** for a transfer fee of 3.5 million pounds, a lower offer than those from Fiorentina, Aston Villa and Chelsea. Before he was signed, Pinto claimed that he was sacked by FC Benfica because of disputes with club coach Jupp Heynckess. Meanwhile, Portuguese national midfielder currently playing with Fiorentina, Manuel Rui Costa, is reported to be in contact with Bayern Munich, but new developments have been reported, according to *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

FC Barcelona is reportedly interested in Manchester United right-winger David Beckham, offering 45 million pounds for his move to Spain. It was also reported in the Spanish newspaper *Marca* that the club is targeting Dennis Bergkamp as well for their next competition squad. If Manchester United reaches an agreement with Barcelona it would be a new world record transfer after Vieri's move from Lazio to Inter Milan two years ago.

"The giant lady" **Juventus** is reportedly lining up a move for French international Patrick "the Gunner" Vieira, recently playing for Arsenal, with a bid of 15 million pounds. Juventus also includes Vieira's international teammate David Trezequet, who is playing for Monaco with a transfer fee of 14 million pounds. Mr. Trezequet has reportedly said that he would go if he gets a place on the first team, which will be difficult because top starts like Alexandro Del Piero, Darco Kovacevic and Filippo Inzaghi are already there.

Boxing

Mike Tyson could face sanctions for hitting referee John Coyle as he tried to pull the former heavyweight champion away from his fallen opponent, fellow American Lou Savarese. Mr. Tyson had knocked out Mr. Savarese in 38 seconds during the bout in Hampden Park in Glasgow, Scotland.

Tiu answers questions...

On the environment

Dear readers: This issue we listen in on a discussion about something extraordinarily precious, that's all around us, and if we harm it, all of us pay the price.

Can you guess what it is? Our environment. It's the mix of air and water and other elements that sustain our lives and, don't forget, even our livelihoods. Sometimes it seems we all too easily take it for granted, but, fortunately, as the following conversation shows, there are more than a few Timorese who really care about it:

Tiu: Hey amigos boa tarde, diak ka la'e?

The lads and girls: Boa tarde, Tiu. Hopefully we're not disturbing you.

Tiu: Not a problem. What brings you around today?

Sinuku: Tiu, can we have a chat with you about something important?

Tiu: No worries, my friends. I've got a bit of work to do but I can certainly squeeze you guys in. What is it that's so important?

Jose: It's about the environment. We have a few questions.

Tiu: Wow. That's perfect timing. It's a concern of mine as well, and I have a feeling that not enough people are paying attention to it.

Martina: That's absolutely right, Tiu. Just look at the way people are indiscriminately cutting down the trees, causing deforestation and soil erosion, and stealing natural resources like coral from the sea to sell to tourists and other internationals. Are there any laws or regulations to provide protection?

Tiu: Well, my friends, my feeling is that we don't have many laws or regulations that apply to your concerns; but our ancestors had traditional ones. Most have disappeared over time except in the countryside.

Marci: Such as what, Tiu? That's news to me.

Tiu: Traditional laws, particularly in rural areas, helped safeguard the environment. Let me give you an example. Take trees. In certain villages and subdistricts, local residents weren't allowed to cut trees for long periods of time, as much as a year or more. It was a way to protect the trees and to enable them to keep growing. If anyone did illegal cutting then they were fined or punished by the com-

munity. Usually they had to pay with a cow or a pig, or sometimes even

money. There were similar rules regarding hunters. If hunting wildlife was prohibited by the community then those who disobeyed the local rule faced punishment.

Sinuku: Such a sensible policy, Tiu. It's great, but why doesn't it still apply?

Tiu: Well, in fact, it does here and there, and perhaps as communities and local governments get re-established, such rules will be more prevalent.

But at this point, guys, the most important thing is to raise general awareness about environmental concerns in East Timor, particularly in the aftermath of last year's destruction. The widespread burning with all that smoke certainly didn't improve the environment.

Jose: What about UNTAET, Tiu, what are they doing about East Timor's environmental problems?

Tiu: UNTAET is starting to address the challenge of protecting our new nation's natural resources. For instance, it has mounted a public information campaign to remind internationals not to buy the coral that local Timorese are selling along the beach roads. The foreigners like to display it in their homes and offices. But sea coral is a precious Timorese resource. It's an essential habitat for the fish, and we, of course depend on our fishing industry. It's also a real attraction for tourists who snorkel and scuba dive. Once stolen from the sea, the coral just doesn't grow back. What are we going to do if the coral beds are all destroyed?

Apeu: But, Tiu, has UNTAET or the National Consultative Council (NCC) adopted any regulations that protect coral or other natural resources?

Tiu: UNTAET is currently drafting environment regulations; in fact, one's already been adopted by the NCC that prohibits logging operations and the export of wood from East Timor. It's Regulation No. 2000/17.

Marci: Tiu, what happens to the people who burn on the hillsides, cutting trees illegally and remove wood from East Timor?

Tiu: Well, there are penalties and you can get the specifics in section 5 of that very same reg-

ulation, No. 2000/17.

Martina: What about the people who are selling coral and those East Timorese and internationals who are buying it? What happens to them?

Tiu: Well, as I told you, UNTAET is working on that issue at the moment. Once a regulation is passed by the NCC, anyone who is considered to be breaking the law most likely will face penalties.

One other thing you guys should know however, is that an Indonesian regulation on the environment which was passed in 1997 is still in force. As an interim measure, UNTAET continued to apply all Indonesian laws that were in force as of October 1999, as long as they didn't run counter to internationally acknowledged human rights standards. UNTAET also consults closely with Timorese NGOs like Haburas that are concerned with environmental issues, as well as with the CNRT environment section.

Antonio: But Tiu, is anything really being done to identify those people who are logging illegally or exploiting the coral reefs?

Tiu: Well, yes, Antonio, and increasingly so. There's even an investigation unit on illegal logging. By the way, there are environmental regulations regarding shipping and controls on oil companies doing exploration in East Timor's waters. UNTAET is also attempting to review investment and development plans, assessing their short- and longer-term environmental impact.

Antonio: That's good to hear. But one other thing. What are they doing to protect endangered species?

Tiu: Well my friend, so far not much, but an international organization called IUCN, through its Red List of Threatened Species, used to keep track of endangered species here in East Timor. Since the destruction last year, they have yet to return. But hopefully with time they will return.

Whew, look at the time. I've got to run, but this is an important issue and lets get together again soon and talk at greater length about it. In the meantime, all of you try to get as much information on our environment as possible. It's ours to appreciate, it's ours to protect.

Bye Bye!



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Public Announcement

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UNTAET

United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor

Office of Water and Sanitation

WATER SUPPLY CONNECTIONS TO THE DILI SYSTEM

Over the past three months, the UNTAET Office of Water and Sanitation (OWS) has received many applications for water supply connections to the Dili water supply network. At the present time there is a backlog of nearly 500 applications for new connections, and the time delay between application and connection is becoming unacceptable.

One of the reasons for delay is the need for our connection teams to make repairs on pipelines that have been damaged by people breaking pipes to make their own connections. In most instances this practice results only in a broken pipe, wasted money, wasted water, and a health risk to the community.

The OWS has decided that it will not accept new

applications for water connections, until the present backlog is reduced.

When the backlog is sufficiently reduced, the OWS will inform the public that applications for water connections will again be accepted.

PLEASE DON'T WASTE WATER

Many areas of Dili still experience water shortages. This is mainly because there is too much water being wasted.

Please don't waste water. If you waste water at your house it will mean other houses in Dili do not get enough water.

Please report all water leaks to the UNTAET Office of Water & Sanitation at the Governors Building.

Public Announcement



The name Tais Timor conjures the image of the careful, time-honoured process that goes into making the traditional Timorese cloth used in all important life events. As the different "ingredients" that make up East Timor come together during the transitional period to rebuild the country, Tais Timor aims to record and reflect those events that weave the beautiful tapestry that is Timor Lorosa'e.

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