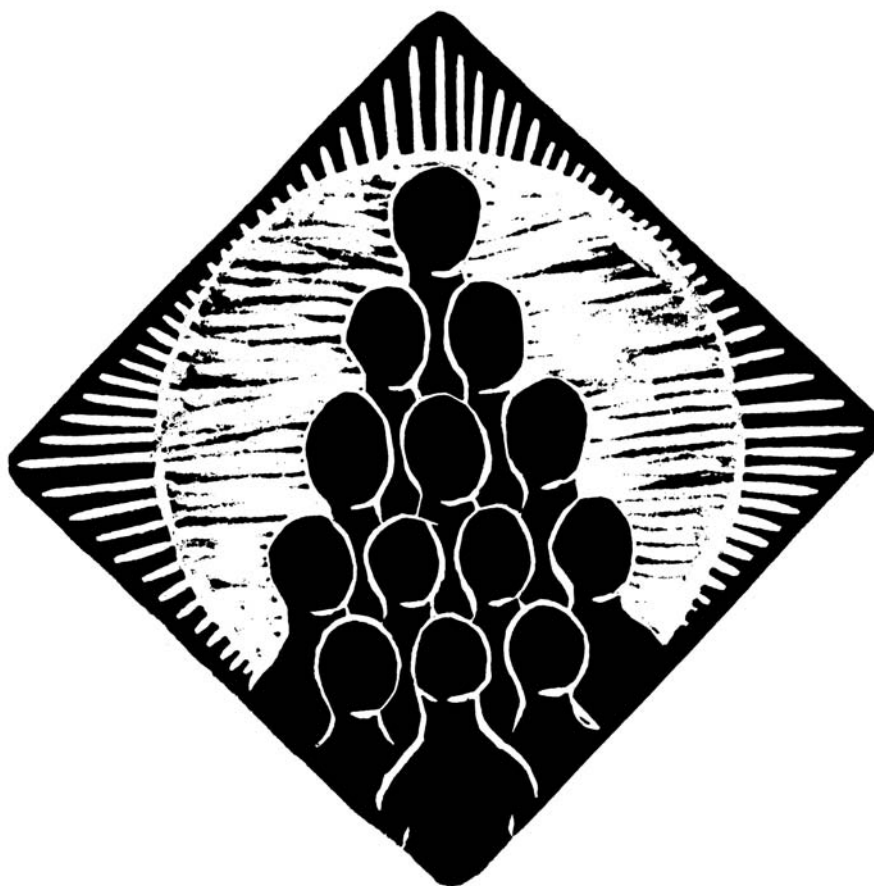




Nation-Building across Urban and Rural Timor-Leste

Gender, Justice, Peace and Security, Development and Governance

A Conference to Reflect on 10 years of Nation Building in Timor-Leste



Wednesday 8 July to Friday 10 July 2009
St John Paul II, Comoro
Dili, Timor-Leste



Australian Government
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ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network
www.sueztosuva.org.au



<http://www.timor-leste.org/events/hariinasaun.html>

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Welcome

The aim of this conference is to provide an opportunity for reflection on the process of nation-building over the last 10 years in Timor-Leste. Over the past months the conference has been socialized in all districts of the country by FONGTIL's district liaison officers, conference staff and RMIT University. We have met with over 130 organizations, networks and community representatives, and the conference has been advertised in all national media. One of the most repeated comments during the socialization process was that such a conference enabled all levels of society, particularly those in districts other than Dili, to take part in dialogue on these issues.

During the socialization period, many people either registered to attend the conference or submitted applications to present. Following a selection process, in June twelve East Timorese attended three days of training in Dare so as to develop their presentations. In addition, a range of other East Timorese and non-Timorese will also be presenting at the conference, providing a wide range of perspectives.

An exhibition of artist's work from across the country will give a different opportunity to explore the themes of the conference. In addition, there will be East Timorese dancers and singers, the launch of the 'Understanding Community' report by RMIT University, information from community-based organizations and a market of local products on the final day.

Thank you for attending this Conference

The Conference Committee

Nation-Building across Urban and Rural Timor-Leste

This conference provides an opportunity for East Timorese and people from around the world to reflect, discuss and debate the nation-building process in Timor-Leste since 1999. In this context, nation-building in Timor-Leste is taken to mean the many different attempts since 1999 to ensure the political, economic and cultural integration of the population within the territory so as to fulfill the ambition of self rule in a stable and ongoing way.

Ten years after the 1999 vote for independence, this conference will consider how nation-building is being experienced and responded to across urban and rural communities in Timor-Leste. Broadening the discussion beyond that of 'state-building', at the core of the conference is a consideration of the myriad ways the new republic has been 'built'. Here 'nation-building' considers not only in terms of policy and programmatic initiatives but also grass roots experiences and perceptions of how Timor-Leste as a nation is seen and understood.

At this conference, nation-building will be discussed in terms of what appears to be one of the most significant characteristics of contemporary Timor-Leste, namely the sharp distinction found between the urbanized capital and the rural communities where the majority of the population live. Dili has emerged as the centre for economic and political power in a way that is extraordinarily disproportionate with the remainder of the country, while rural areas often remain highly isolated and continue to be dominated by subsistence agriculture. Differences in access to services—running water and electricity, communication networks, adequate roads and transport, schooling and health—are among the more obvious differences alongside a lack of access to paid work or opportunities for business development. The distinction between the 'centre' and the 'periphery' is found in everyday discourse in Timor-Leste, where it is the norm for people to speak in oppositional terms about 'Dili' and the 'foho' (literally meaning mountain but used to refer to non-urban communities).

While acknowledging the sharp distinctions, the conference will look beyond assuming a straight forward urban/rural disconnect. Nor will it seek to understand this relationship simply from the 'centre'. Firstly, this conference will explore how rural communities have actively responded to the challenges of nation-building on their own terms. Secondly, the conference will attempt to consider the ways in which the urban and the rural in Timor-Leste interconnect with one another, not just in terms of the movement of people or economic interaction, but also in terms of how national identity and culture is understood and projected.

In summary, this conference aims to:

- Provide a critical opportunity for East Timorese and people from around the world to reflect on the nation-building process in Timor-Leste
- Provide opportunities to further develop research skills within East Timorese organizations through training, mentoring and practical experience in presenting ideas publicly.
- Where necessary, to provide training and support to East Timorese to present at the conference, especially where there may be a lack of prior experience in doing so in such an environment.
- Produce a high-quality multi-lingual publication based on a selection of conference papers to be distributed both in Timor-Leste and internationally.
- Provide opportunities for debate, dialogue and discussions surrounding the conference themes.
- Develop recommendations that will be given to government, civil society and the media, and published in the subsequent conference publication.
- To provide the broader community, both East Timorese and international, with access to ideas from and about the nation-building process in Timor-Leste through internet access (Globalism Research Centre's website www.timor-leste.org) and conference publications.

Discussion Groups

One of the primary objectives of this conference is to provide an opportunity for debate and dialogue around the nation building process. To facilitate this, and so that the conference is not only a forum for presentations, there will be facilitated discussion sessions. This will allow all conference participants to contribute in this dialogue. During the conference socialization process there was a request for concrete outcomes that will go beyond the conference and could make an impact on the future nation building process. As part of this it was decided that a set of recommendations would be developed from the conference that would be given to government, civil society, the media and published and distributed in the subsequent conference publication. It was decided these recommendations would be developed in the discussion groups.

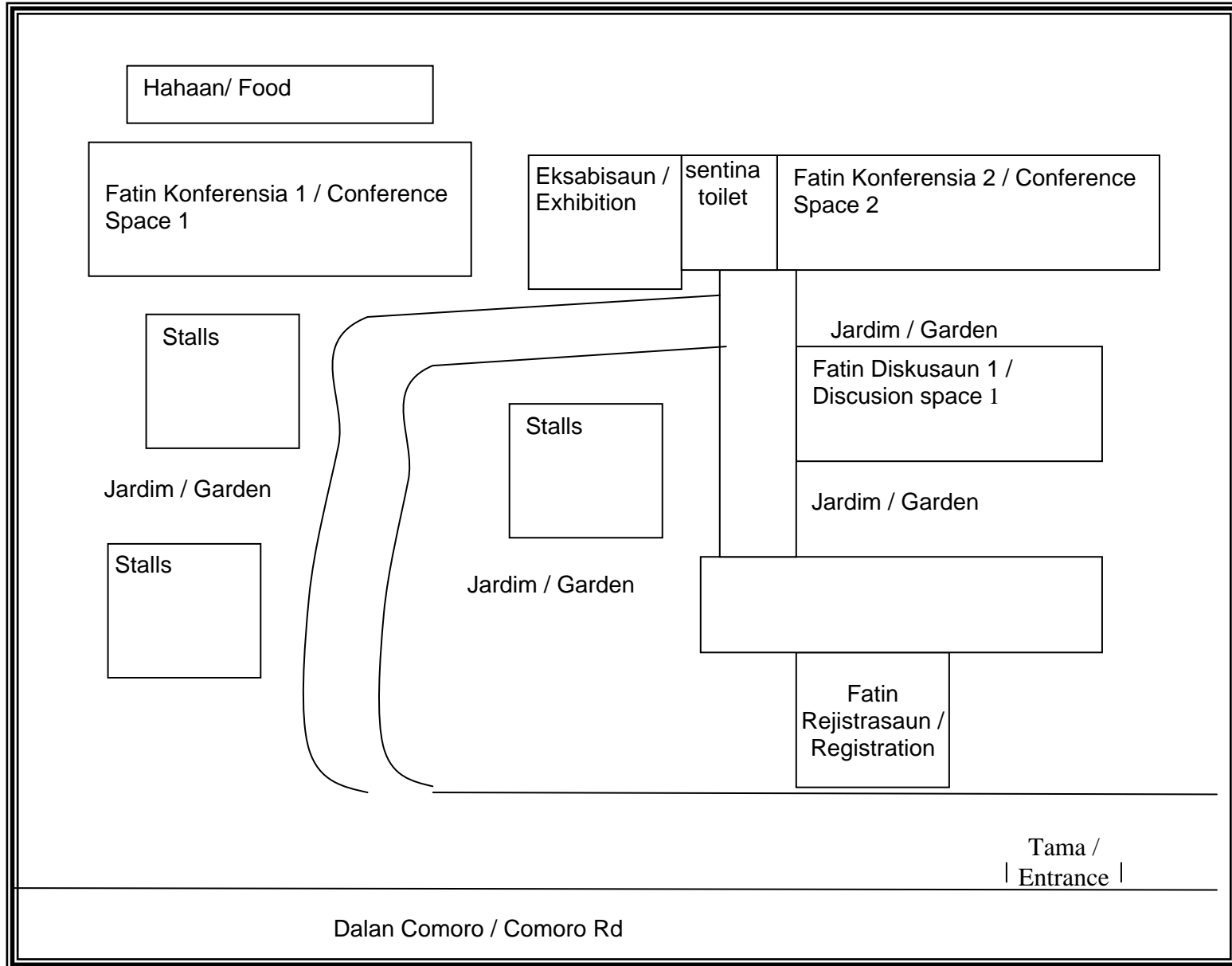
The discussion groups will be broken into 6 groups, with each group focusing on one of the themes of the conference – nation building, gender, peace and security, justice, governance and development. Each group will meet twice during the conference with a time to feedback their findings, as can be seen in the program. The first group discussion will be to discuss each theme over the last 10 years, and the second to look forward and develop 3-5 recommendations per group. These recommendations will then be developed into a formal document that will be distributed following the conference. The Discussions will be facilitated by FONGTIL staff Dinorah S. X. Granadeiro, Antonio Abel Guterres, Guilherme Soares, Mario da Silva, Manuel Sequeira, Armindo dos Santos, Janu Soares, and Domingoes Ati from AHCAE Oecusi.

Entertainment

During the conference there will be entertainment that will add to the enjoyable environment of the conference as well as give a different perspective of the nation building process and Timorese culture and. This will include:

- An exhibition from art groups;
 - Sanggar Kultura
 - Sanggar Masin
 - Sanggar Matan
 - Sanggar Weturu
 - Arte Moris
 - Gembel
 - Yo Ma Tre – Suai
- Dances from Le- Ziaval
- Music from Galaxy
- Market of Timorese local products on the last day

Conference Map



Day One – Wednesday 8 July

Conference Space 1

Conference Space 2

8 am to 9 am

Registration

9 am to 9.15 am

Welcome to the Conference: Moderator

9.15 am - 10.15 am

Dance Group Le-Ziaval
Damian Grenfell, RMIT University - Introduction
Vice Prime Minister Jose Luis Guterres, Government of Timor-Leste - Opening
Dance Group Le-Ziaval

10.15 am – 10.35 am

Morning Tea

10.35 am – 12.30 pm

Panel: Nation-building

Dinorah S. X. Granadeiro, Executive Director, FONGTIL
David Hicks, Stony Brooke University
Henrique Cesario Da Costa, UNTL
Joaquim Da Costa Freitas, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Civil Society (to respond to questions for Vice Prime Minister Jose Luis Guterres)
Questions and Discussion

12.30 pm - 1.45 pm

Lunch

1.45 pm - 3.25 pm

Panel: Peace & Security

Bu V.E Wilson, Australian National University
Julio Fransisco Freitas, CARE
Constantino Pinto, Fundasaun Lafaek Diak
Questions and Discussion

Panel: Gender

Maria Zulmira Alves Soares, Caritas Australia
Fransisca Da Silva, JSMP
Eugenia Neves Da Costa, Moris Foun
Questions and Discussion

3.25 pm -3.45 pm

Afternoon Tea

3.45 pm - 4.45 pm

Panel: Justice

Chiquito da Costa Guterres, Post CAVR Secretariat
Lia Kent, Melbourne University
Questions and Discussion

Day Two – Thursday 9 July

Conference Space 1

Conference Space 2

8 am to 8.30 am

Registration

8.30 am - 10.40 am

Panel: Governance

Antonio A. Guterres, Deputy District Administrator Baucau
Dennis Shoemith, Charles Darwin University
Francisco Da Cunha, Caritas Australia
Questions and Discussion

Panel: Development

Joao Soares Reis-Pequinho, Forum Tau Matan
Justiano de Jesus
Alice Amelia O.P.Leite
Questions and Discussion

10.40 am - 11.00 am

Morning Tea (sign up for discussion groups)

11.00 pm - 12:30 pm

Discussion Groups

12:30 pm - 1.30 pm

Lunch

1.30 pm -3.10 pm

Panel: Development

Domingos Rodrigues, CJSDF
Elias dos Santos Ferreira,
Nuno Vasco Oliveira, Secretaria de Estado da Cultura
Leopoldina Joana Guterres
Questions and Discussion

Panel: Gender

Gisela de Carvalho, FKSH
Olandina Mendonca Do Rego, CTRA
Teresinha M. N. Cardoso, CAUCUS Feto
Questions and Discussion

3.10 pm - 3.30 pm

Afternoon Tea

3.30 pm – 4.40 pm

Panel: Peace and Security

Kelly Silva, University da Brasilia
Jose Sousa-Santos
Questions and Discussion

Panel: Justice

Jose Marques, Hanoin Foun Timor-Leste
Jose Luis de Oliveira, HAK
Questions and Discussion

Day Three: Friday 10 July

Conference Space 1

- 8.30 am - 9.10 am **Feedback from Discussion Groups**
- 9.10 am - 10.15 pm **Second Discussion Group to formulate recommendations to Government and Civil Society**
- 10.15 am - 10.45 am **Morning Tea**
- 10.45 am - 11.15 am **Report back on discussion groups: Priority Recommendations**
-

- 11.15 am to 12.00 pm **Launch of 'Understanding Community' Report**
Charles Lathrop, Irish Aid
Carmeneza Moniz Noronha, RMIT University
Mayra Walsh, RMIT University
Questions and Discussion
-

- 12 pm - 1 pm **Lunch**
-

- 1 pm - 2.30 pm **Panel: Nation-building**
Susana Barnes, Monash University
M. Anne Brown, University of Queensland
Carmeneza dos Santos Monteiro, Australian National University
Questions and Discussion
-

- 2.30 pm - 3 pm **Closing: Dra Deputada Cipriana Da Costa Pereira**
Music from Galaxy
-

Afternoon Tea

Presenters Abstracts

Please see the conference times in this program to see when and where different speakers will be presenting.

Alice Amelia Odete Pires Leite

Maubisse, Ainaro, Timor-Leste

Education in Rural Areas Still Needs Further Development

I will raise this topic based on existing reality, and while there have been many changes, there are still many improvements to be made in rural areas according to my observations. In my opinion the many existing difficulties can impact on the nation's development. As a new and small nation, Timor-Leste is categorized as a poor nation in the Asian region. Nevertheless it has seen some development in many areas during its ten years of independence. As a teacher, I will look more into the aspects of education in rural areas which have seen some changes and some which have not.

Some of the changes seen are the opening of schools in all parts of the country and everyone having an opportunity to attain scholarships to study overseas, depending on one's abilities.

However, this does not mean that education in rural areas has seen a complete change. Because of the realities faced by myself especially in my sub-district of Maubisse, I will focus on five important points which constitute to be obstacles to the development of human resources as follows; Firstly, 20 percent of children do not attend school because they are involved in other 'adult's' activities; Secondly, parents incomes are low; Thirdly, poor school facilities; Fourthly, lack of access to communication and information; and lastly some parents do not prioritize formal education for their children.

The impact from these five points will be a higher level of illiteracy in Timor-Leste if they are not resolved. With this presentation I hope that the government will give more attention to these issues.

Antonio A. Guterres, Deputy District Administrator Baucau

Baucau, Timor-Leste

Decentralization in Timor-Leste

Functionally, as a State institution, the government has the role of formulating and implementing a national development plan with the objective of freeing people from poverty in accordance with its mandate from the RDTL constitution. With its constitutional political power, the government has an obligation to formulate and implement programs of all sorts to benefit the whole population. Structurally, the government as one of the sovereign bodies within a democratic state of rule of law fulfills its constitutional duty to carry out the Process of National Development.

From the perspective of a state with the rule of law, the government's program for national development is the political mechanism and the strategic means of ensuing the process of the people's emancipation. A determinant factor for national development is the full participation of all components and democratic institutions in Timor-Leste in accordance with democratic values and principles. Contextually, the government is the only state body with the competence to make policy decisions regarding the national

development process in the country in order to benefit the whole community. The implication of the government's policies is the ability to create conditions that are favorable and integrated in order to achieve the objective of national development.

The fundamental reason for Timor-Leste to implement decentralization in the future is: the constitutional reason as stipulated in the Constitution of RDTL, Section 5 and Section 72, which clearly states that Timor-Leste will implement the decentralization of public administration. We also talk about 'Democracy' as well as 'Participation'. If we talk about participation we also talk about 'Representation'. Therefore the instrument that ensures community participation in the process of development is 'decentralization'. In this paper about Decentralization I will focus primarily on what is decentralization and how it can help strengthen the nation.

Bu V.E. Wilson, Australian National University

Australia

Missing in Action: How History, Capacity and Relationships Killed Off Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Timor-Leste

Following the crisis of 2006 UNMIT was mandated, among other things, to assist with the reform, restructuring and rebuilding of the Timor-Leste police force (the PNTL) and to assist the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) to carry out a review of the security sector.

Almost three years later the PNTL is in the process of reassuming responsibility for policing, but the force is largely unreconstructed. No significant reform efforts have been directed towards the F-FDTL. The Security Sector Review which should have been a modest undertaking has not taken place despite a large budget allocation. During this time the division of roles between the PNTL and the F-FDTL has become less clear, with the F-FDTL taking an increasing role in internal security, something that does not auger well for long term stability.

I contend that this extraordinary lack of progress is hampered by both UNMIT and the GoTL in a mutually reinforcing process. Timor-Leste's martial history, history of shifting alliances and propensity for personal rather than institutional exercise of power has contributed to a deep ambivalence about the reform process. Similarly, the spectra of previous UN failures in Timor in the area of security development has made UNMIT hesitant to push the SSR agenda and the GoTL reluctant to accept UNMIT assistance. Additionally, both the international and national actors have suffered from a lack of capacity to carry out the review process, and there has been a failure to establish the cross-institutional relationships necessary for the review process to progress. I conclude there is evidence that both UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste have placed a higher priority on the ritual of *appearing* to carry out security sector reform activities rather than actually doing it.

Carmeneza Dos Santos Monteiro, Australian National University

Timor-Leste

The Nation-Building Process in Timor-Leste

I will focus on the nation-building process in Timor-Leste in the last ten years. I will divide my presentation into four parts. Firstly, I will look at the terms 'Nation and State' and what is involved in the nation-building process. Here I will mostly use the definition offered by Max Webber about the State and the definition of Nation offered by Ernest Baker. Following that, I will talk about the beginning of the nation-building process in Timor-Leste. Here I will look at how the UN, through its transitional administration, founded Timor-Leste as a nation. I will also look at the obstacles faced by Timor-Leste during its past ten years of nation-building. I will argue that the biggest obstacle is building unity and economic development. Lastly, I will look at how Timor-Leste's state institutions or 'pillars' integrate and complement each other in working for the wellbeing of the community. I will also look at the role of the political opposition, media, civil society and development partners.

Carmenesa Moniz Noronha and Mayra Walsh, RMIT University with Charles Lathrop, Irish Aid

Bobonaro, Timor-Leste, Australia, & Ireland

Understanding Community: Security and Sustainability in Timor-Leste

This presentation will launch a new report based on extensive research undertaken in Golgota, an *aldeia* within Kampung Baru, as well as three other aldeia in Timor-Leste, namely Sarelari in Lautem district, Nanu in Covalima district and Luha Oli in Baucau district. By drawing comparatively from these different sites, it will be argued that the distinction between urban and rural communities in Timor-Leste is in several important respects less distinct than may seem to be the case. While the research underpinning the report 'Understanding Community: Security and Sustainability in Four Aldeia in Timor-Leste' shows some obvious differences related to financial well-being, literacy and access to information with regards to urban and rural communities, the research also shows that a more urbanized community has found ways in which to carry on cultural practices so as to both sustain relations with other communities as well as help to maintain security within their community.

Chiquito da Costa Guterres, Post-CAVR Secretariat

Dili, Timor Leste

Transitional Justice in Timor-Leste

In a new nation in transition as Timor, transitional justice is a way of responding to widespread and systematic violations of human rights that have occurred in the past. The objective of transitional justice is to promote peace, reconciliation and democracy, to prevent future violations of human rights, and to provide recognition to victims. The means of achieving these objectives can include a truth commission, reparations program and judicial investigations on human rights violations.

Currently, in regards to the area of transitional justice, there is a variety of initiatives being undertaken in Timor-Leste. In the area of truth seeking, the state of Timor-Leste has established two truth commissions – CAVR and CVA – to find the truth about the

human rights violations that have occurred in Timor-Leste during the conflict period. These two commissions have made recommendations to the state on how to strengthen peace, democracy and human rights in the country. In the area of formal justice for past crimes, there is an ongoing Serious Crimes Process (SCU and SCIT) in Timor-Leste as well as in the Ad-Hoc Court in Jakarta. In the area of remembrance there is a variety of activities although it lacks proper co-ordination and support. Regarding reparations to victims, there is not yet a national program able to provide recognition and material assistance for the victims of the 1974-1999 conflicts.

While there has been transitional justice initiatives already undertaken, many people have not yet felt their results. There are many calls from victims demanding justice and reparations, but what has in effect happened? Currently the two reports are in Parliament without a clear agenda for it to be tabled for debate. How can this situation be addressed? There is a need to debate the *Chega!* and CVA reports and to set up a new body to work closely with government and implement the recommendations put forward by *Chega!* and CVA. There is a need for a decision from the Prosecutor General to take the cases from the Serious Crime Investigation Team (SCIT) to court and how to prosecute serious crimes that happened before 1999. Currently in Parliament these two reports have been shelved. What have we and the international community done to assist the process of justice in Timor-Leste? There is a need to educate and disseminate, to use all networks in order to strengthen advocacy including organizing the victims, encouraging MP's to debate the *Chega!* and CVA reports, and to establish a implementation program for the recommendations from CAVR and CVA.

Dr. MP Cipriana da Costa Pereira **Member National Parliament**

Timor Leste

Women's Participation and Contributions in Post-Independence Timor-Leste: Ten Years On

In my presentation I would like to remember and reflect on the role of all women in the resistance and the nation building process since independence. Like many women in Timor-Leste, my political activism started with our fight for independence. My experience in the resistance for national liberation began in 1975 at the age of 12 as an activist for Fretilin/ responsible for OPJT in the eastern part of Timor. As a political activist my commitment and involvement was ongoing through the period of resistance from 1975 to 1999.

Following independence, as with many women, I began to be involved in different ways with the development of Timor-Leste as a new nation. For instance, during UNTAET's Transitional Administration period from 2000 to 2002 I received the confidence and credentials from the leadership of the historic Fretilin party to sit in Fretilin's National Council/Legislative Body in Timor-Leste. After that, in 2002 I was elected member of the Constituent Assembly from the Dili District Electorate. As such, I became Fretilin's Member of Parliament for the district of Dili on 20 May 2002 (2002-2007) when the Constituent Assembly transformed itself into the National Parliament in accordance with Section 167 of RDTL's Constitution and maintained my position as Member of Parliament for the duration of the first legislature. In accordance with the electoral law for legislative elections/NP 2007-2012 I was again elected as a Fretilin Member of Parliament for the second legislature. However, I have also worked beyond Parliament, and as a woman I see it as important to contribute to different areas. I have also contributed formally in academic activities (teacher), in high office in the political party, and was 'Nominated Woman 2002' in the area of politics on International Women's Day, March 2002.

This is an important time to remember all the women in Timor-Leste, and I know that many women have contributed in many different ways, and this is how I have formally participated and contributed to the Timor-Leste Nation from 2000 to 2009 and I hold my current position as an active member of Parliament. Many other women have had different experiences, and different roles to play, however we have been an important part in the nation-building process.

Constantino Pinto, Fundasaun Lafaek Diak

Baucau, Timor-Leste

Rural Development through Asset Based Community Development – ABCD

How does rural development relate to national security? Constantino Pinto will talk about food security such as in the development of agriculture and agribusiness, nutritional and health conditions of infants and parents, water and sanitation, and the economy in rural areas and their impacts on security at a national level. The examples used by him in addressing these issues were drawn from his work and experience at *Fundação Lafaek Diak* together with the people of Triloka, Oestico and Bucoli, Baucau district. *Fundação Lafaek Diak* worked together with the people of Triloka, Oestico and Bucoli and used the ABCD method (Asset Based Community Development - *Desenvolvimento Komunitaria liu Rekursus Nebee Iha* – ‘*Swadaya Masyarakat*’ in Indonesian). Community development using the ABCD method begins with whatever is available. When looking at a glass of water, half empty or half full, ABCD will begin with the ‘half full’ perspective. What works well in a community? What do people like about their *suku* or *aldeia*? What strengths, skills or resources are available? The ‘half full’ perspective means that we begin with whatever resources are available, then connections are made and partners sought wanting to add to the ‘half full’ part and thus decreasing the empty part of the glass. Through this civil society participates in national development and contributes to national security.

David Hicks, Stony Brook University

United States of America

“Centre” and “Periphery” in Contemporary Timor-Leste

The present paper attempts to identify certain agencies that may be perceived as influencing the capacity of Timor-Leste to evolve from a country in which local, rural, traditions (*adat*) have defined the identities of most of the Timorese population into one which the concept of the nation-state is hegemonic. It is therefore concerned with examining the transition the central government is attempting to make in the country’s *sukus* from institutions defined by an *adat*-orientation to institutions that define the modern nation-state. This contrast corresponds in some respects to, and can be formulated in terms of, a distinction the sociologist, Edward Shils, perceived between what he called the “centre” and the “periphery”. While drawing the contrast, however, he did not make much attempt to propose what factors might be involved in bringing about such a transformation. In this paper I identify several likely agencies implicated in such a process. These are local political leadership; national political parties; the local populace’s attitudes towards western concepts of democracy, law, and equality in gender, age, and social rank, as compared with traditional values bequeathed *suku* residents by their ancestors. These latter include notions of social hierarchy; gender and age inequalities; and the traditional authority of male elders.

Dennis Shoemith, Charles Darwin University

Australia

Devolution or Delegation? A preview of the new local government regime in Timor-Leste

The new legislation on Local Government and Municipal Elections introduced this year creates a new regime of local governance that sets out to create institutions closer to the people than central government or the national parliament. In the absence of individual electorates (MPs do not represent specific local communities) these reforms could introduce opportunities for democratic participation at the local level in a political system that until now has been highly centralized. Looking at the proposals from the Ministry of State and Administration and Territorial Management, this presentation will preview the planned changes and offer a preliminary assessment of the likelihood of whether the reform of local government will involve actual devolution of decision-making to local communities.

Dinorah S. X. Granadeiro, Executive Director, FONGTIL

Dili, Timor Leste

The Involvement of Civil Society in the Nation-Building Process

The involvement of civil society, in particular NGOs in Timor-Leste, started from the outset of the Indonesian occupation. During the period of Indonesian occupation NGOs have provided social services to assist communities in rural areas, however their work also consisted of clandestine activities in support of the struggle for self-determination. As we know some of these organizations still exist today such as the Hak Foundation, Fokupers and Etadep, each of which were heavily involved in the struggle for self-determination.

Following the 1999 referendum many international NGOs came to Timor with the mission of providing emergency assistance to all places that had suffered destruction during that period, and to strengthen national and local district NGOs to help cover all areas.

After the emergency period the NGOs continued to flourish and grow in strength in order to respond to all sectors in need of their assistance since, as we all know, the government alone was unable to develop this new nation of ours and required the support from all, in particular from civil society.

Year after year this new nation has begun to develop itself without realizing the ten years that have passed since we decided to emancipate ourselves and live as an independent nation among other independent nations. This nation has begun to develop in all sectors and there have been significant changes in the capital cities in the area of infrastructure and others though we nevertheless still saddened by the fact that these changes have not yet reached the rural areas where our fellow citizens continue to make demands for roads, electricity, clean water among other things.

Domingus Rodrigues, CJSDF

Same, Manufahi, Timor-Leste

Infrastructure in Timor-Leste

In this paper I will speak strongly about the problem of infrastructure especially in the district of Manufahi and how it has impacted on the communities in rural areas. Out of the existing *sucos*, most are in rural areas and live from agriculture. This district has much potential such as coffee, candlenut, teak and others such as cattle, pigs and goats as well as other livestock that provides a good economic basis for the population.

The problem of infrastructure in the district of Manufahi such as with roads has always been a problem felt directly by the people. For example, the problem with the existing roads has resulted in the lack of access to public transport and goods. This problem has also impacted negatively on their access to education and health. In other situations, the problem with the roads causes hardships for people requiring security from conflict amidst the population, and from other problems that negatively affect the community's life. I feel that this problem does not only affect Manufahi district but also other districts in Timor-Leste.

Eugenia Neves da Costa, Moris Foun

Manatutu, Timor Leste

Gender Specific Social Constructs

Some people in Timor think of gender in terms of sex or equality. Some also think that the man's family has more rights to make decisions and that the man is the family head. In this type of thinking women must obey and become subservient to men. Often this behavior and characteristic is taught from an early age.

Gender is important for us humans to define men from women, gender is important in society. It is importante for men and women to move away from an unjust social construct, and to eradicate the cycle of violence.

Women and men plan together for the development of the family. Bring about justice and equality in the family and society. Since women and men have equal abilities, they also have equal rights before the law.

For example, in some places or cultures people think that women cannot get a higher education, men cannot be in the kitchen and do house work. This happens in some places and in some cultures and it becomes their thinking and traditions.

Reality shows that till this day society and families still use unjust systems that place greater value on male children.

There are also women who wish to prove their abilities in public life but first require permission from their husbands to be able to do so.

For the reasons above, we must learn together what is just in order to promote gender equality in society since the right to equality has been already protected in the constitution of RDTL.

Francisco da Cunha, Caritas Australia

Dili, Timor Leste

Governance: Building the Capacities of Local Leaders to Reinforce the Local Government System

This paper will focus primarily on Caritas Australia's program *Hari Dame/Prevensaun familia no uma laran* through its project of assistance to local leaders. This project came about as Caritas Australia's response to the 2006 crisis. The crisis that occurred had a bigger impact on the *sucos* in Dili which suffered damage to their infrastructure and to their system of local governance, thus impacting heavily on the communities. The work strategy places the focus on local leadership, specially on the role of the *Xefe-suku* in strengthening the community and the conflict resolution mechanisms used to maintain peace at the *suku* level. The first work phase an assessment was conducted on the positive and negative aspects in the *suku* in order to collect data and assess the impacts of the crisis on the *suku*. During the project's implementation phase there were some challenges arising from the difficulty of the local leadership's capacity to participate in the process due in parts to the lack knowledge. The high level of violence caused several readjustments in the program's implementation. The program's implementation saw the participation of 25 *suku* from the district of Dili and almost 16 small projects were implemented in 16 of these *suku*. 36 youth were trained in administration and finance and are currently providing assistance to the *xefe-suku* in their *suku* office.

Fransisca Da Silva, JSMP

Dili, Timor Leste

Formal Justice in Urban and Rural Timor-Leste

According to a report from JSMP on 7 April 2004 women victims do not get sufficient/adequate treatment or the police do not give enough attention to their problems, and there are few cases (women victims) that reach the courts. From this we can see that indeed women do not have much access to formal justice. I will address this in my presentation. I will present two indicators, namely: women's lack of knowledge about formal justice and their knowledge but unwillingness to use the system. From this I will also attempt to look at the reasons why people do not have access to information, and why they are reluctant to use the formal system. Lastly, I will put forward some recommendations on these issues.

Gizela de Carvalho, Director, Feto Kiik Servisu Hamutuk (FKSH)

Dili, Timor Leste

Women's Inequality in Timor-Leste

Gizela de Carvalho, director of one of Timor-Leste's leading women's organization, Feto Kiik Servisu Hamutuk (FKSH), will present background on the issues surrounding women's inequality and historical data that shows women's position in the workforce. She will also highlight the numerous obstacles that women face in their plight to advance in their careers and job positions. Miss de Carvalho will also discuss the key outcomes of the 3rd national women's conference held in 2008, and what role that FKSH's plays in assisting women. In particular, she will give a brief history of her organization and the successful implementation of their program of 'Empowering Women's Economy' in rural areas, and where FKSH provides valuable training to 32 women's groups in 4 districts.

Henrique Cesário da Costa, UNTL

Dili, Timor Leste

Timor-Leste: Success of the Referendum and the Challenges of Building a New Nation

The objective of Timor-Leste's struggle was achieved through the successful Referendum even though the Timorese were not fully prepared due to their full focus on the struggle to achieve territorial independence. Timor-Leste found itself in a new situation which greatly affected the lives of its communities despite the support from the UN mission since the Timorese lacked adequate human resources in all areas. Problems with basic infrastructure, the infiltration of pro-autonomy militias, lack of human resources in all sectors, the problem of ex-Falintil, differences of ideas among leaders of the old generation, marginalization of the young in terms of language and the mentality of corruption, collusion and nepotism inherited from the old Indonesian administration became challenges faced by the Timorese in the process of building a new nation. The formation of Timor-Leste Defense Forces in Aileu in 2000 based on a discriminatory Kings College study created misunderstandings among the Falintil members. The differences of ideas among leaders of the older generation posed a huge challenge to the process of nation-building in Timor-Leste and resulted in a dark period of history from 2006 to 2008 and which greatly affected the social and economic lives of Timor-Leste's people.

The problem of marginalization of the young in terms of language excluded the youth from the process of building a new nation and increased social injustice. The old Indonesian ways in the public sector gave rise to practices of maladministration including Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism which flourished in the workplace due to a weak system of control and political influence. In Timor-Leste, the cultural and lifestyle aspects were advantageous to the practices of maladministration such as Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism to flourish. These identified problems have become a huge challenge to the process of building the new nation of Timor-Leste and increased social injustice and the social and economical marginalization of the people of Timor-Leste.

Joao Soares Reis-Pequinho, Forum Tau Matan

Dili, Timor Leste

Housing Rights in Timor Leste

Following the restoration of independence on 20 May 2002, there has been a range of efforts from all components of society, including the international community, to improve human rights conditions in the country. Nevertheless, the general living conditions of the population remain poor. Housing conditions in the community can be taken as a general indicator to argue that development of housing is an essential aspect of rural development required to ensure human dignity to all. An adequate house is not just about a good roof over people's heads, good structure or foundations. The house is essential to a healthy living, psychological wellbeing, privacy, physical and psychological protection, and to social activities that strengthen human relationships. Lastly, the house is also considered to have an economical function by allowing people to undertake commercial activities.

A national policy regarding housing is the key to a planned and programmatic national strategy to ensure that each individual or family has access to an adequate house. The global vision is for a key urban planning policy and a housing policy to achieve the MDGs and the national Development Plan.

To conclude, I want to stress that the vision for the future should be one where rural

development takes place alongside the decentralization of power and administrative responsibilities. Therefore, housing must become a priority which the government must integrate into the work of municipal administration. Notwithstanding all the efforts from the government to reduce poverty, there has been no policy or integrated program regarding rural development, no policy regarding food security, in particular an emphasis on increasing the quality, quantity and variety of local produce, and no national housing policy. Timor-Leste continues to thread the path of development uncertainties.

Jose Marques , Director Hanoi Foun Timor Leste

Cacavei, Los Palos, Timor Leste

Positive and Negative Impacts of Traditional Justice on Rural Communities

From my observations our community still holds on to traditional law due to the following reasons: First, most of our communities still hold on to the *lia* (traditional law) of their *Bei'ala* (ancestors) and are aware of their negative and positive impacts. Second, most of our communities still do not understand the positive and negative impacts of formal law. Access to courts is difficult due to their distance from local communities. For example: the community in *suku* Cacavei in Lautem district is far away from the Baucau court. Third, the community maintains the system of traditional justice as a cultural value although it does not bar the way for formal justice to be used in the rural community.

Traditional Justice is law but with cultural value only. Usually civil traditional authorities (*liurai*, *xefe-suku*, *lia-na'in*) use it to resolve problems that have existed in the past since the times of their ancestors.

Traditional justice is used to address/respond to big and small problems. Big problems such as theft, bashings, killings and sexual assault attract sanctions such as *Tara-bandu* (5 or more buffalo or horses, large pigs, *tais*, wine and strong reprimands from the *lia-na'in*). Its objective is to deter the perpetrator from repeating the offence. Small problems such as insults, mistrust and defamation attract a sanction such as the killing of pigs and the offering of *tais*.

In my view nowadays this impacts on the rights of women and children in rural areas, has positive impacts including: first, victim and perpetrator can reconcile, respect for each other in order to strengthen familial relations in society, *knua* and *suku*. Second, maintain security and stability within the family, *knua* and *suku*

The negative impacts include: first, if the Lia Nain (the traditional authorities) is the victim then the way to deal with the issue will not be clear . Second, women have no rights (to keep their children in cases of divorce/separation). Third, the women's families must return the dowry (*barlake*).

The result is that traditional justice has positive aspects to complement formal law in order to address the community's concerns. Further research is required on its negative aspects.

Jose Luis de Oliveira, HAK

Dili, Timor

Difficulties in Strengthening Justice and Democracy

Timor-Leste is a country that has only just risen from a long conflict. This long conflict is not just from the Indonesian occupation, but also from Portuguese colonialism, as well as the Japanese military occupation during World War Two. The experience from each conflict has left a legacy of human rights problems for victims, and culture or a habit for the current generation.

Justice for victims and the cycle of impunity is a legacy from past experiences that has become a significant problem for Timor-Lest as an independent country and a developing democracy.

The current Timor-Leste state politics tries to forget the past so as to only look to the future, in doing so ignoring victims rights and adding to the cycle of impunity. This condition makes democracy in Timor-Leste only just "a piece of paper" or "words only", but in reality the old "elite" that participated in the repressive regime still continue to dominate with the new Timor-Leste elite.

Universal human right principles and Timor-Leste's participation in different international instruments, currently act just as "ornaments" for democracy. In practice, conservative behavior and habit is continuing to flourish.

The political and security crisis of 2006 was an experience that repeated the conflict of 1975 and 1999. Political competition that is not sound, and does not have the will and desire from the political elite to respect judicial institutions as an important instrument to strengthen democracy, will indeed cause the people to feel that they can not believe in the organ of state's functionality to guarantee and protect their rights, or they will still feel that the situation is like the past when that nation was an occupied state.

Politics for justice that are not firm or consistent with universal principles, show that the freedom that Timor-Leste has had during the last 10 years, is only for the elite to enjoy, and victims or the people have yet to feel that those that lead the nation follow democratic principles.

Jose Sousa-Santos

Dili, Timor-Leste

From the Jungle to the City: The Reintegration and Transformation of Freedom Fighters to Civilians in Timor-Leste

The marginalization of former independence fighters by – and from - the process of nation building underway in Timor-Leste since 2002 reflects a failure to genuinely address the historical role that many Timorese played in the fight for independence and threatens to undermine contemporary nation building efforts. Despite early efforts in DDDR, many young former FALINTIL and clandestine fighters remain at the margins of society. Uneducated, too young to qualify for official veteran's status, lacking in vocational skills, and suffering from extensive trauma, many of these former key elements of the independence movement have morphed into disenfranchised and violent armed groups, organized criminal elements, and / or guns for hire. It is of little coincidence that a number of the martial arts and ritual arts groups involved in the 2006-07 violence have their origins in the clandestine and guerrilla movement.

This paper argues that the reintegration and transformation of young veterans into mainstream society is an essential component of nation building and the mitigation of future conflict. Due to their moral authority and legitimacy established during the occupation, many of these groups pose a challenge – and alternative - to state authority, specifically to the security sector and administrative institutions at the local and national levels. This paper will examine and critique past and current state initiatives to reintegrate former independence fighters into society and explore methods to positively transform this invaluable albeit potentially destabilizing demographic.

Julio Fransisco Freitas, Care International

Dili, Timor Leste

Building the Capacity of Local Leadership and Community to Resist Conflict

Bairro Pite, a suburb within Dili, saw conflict that started with the *Lorosa'e-Loromonu* crisis in 2006 all the way to the crisis involving martial arts groups. Research shows that Bairro Pite has a high tendency for conflict when compared to other places. This conflict resulted in the victimization of most of the population, forcing them to live in IDP camps, throwing them into a situation of fear of going to school and to move within their own country. Based on the research CARE began to realize that part of the conflict was due to the lack of capacity of the *xefe-aldeia* to engage directly with the community in order to help resolve the problems.

Because of this the presence of international NGO's in Bairro Pite was needed to alleviate, strengthen and reintegrate the community which was dispersed due to the crisis. Care decided to focus on building the capacities of local leaders and community in how to resist conflict. The process was to seek a good strategy to involve the local leaders and community in capacity building, establishing good communication systems and continuous engagement. The program undertaken by CARE provided real help in bringing about change within the community and helping local authorities begin to create good initiatives to foster dialog, reduce conflict between martial art groups and many young people making the effort to become role models in their community.

Justiano de Jesus

Liquica, Timor Leste

A Comparative Analysis of Liquica District: The Development Policy in Rural Areas Seven Years After Independence (2002-2009)

The development of the rural areas is a strategic vision from the Timor-Leste National Development Plan. This concept has already established in the RDTL government's Vision 2020. Its priority is to empower the community from the grassroots as the driving force for national development. Strengthening the economy and education, access to health, job creation, increase physical development, strengthening justice and community security have become the steps to reduce the risk of poverty. Thus, people in rural areas will be able to get adequate and secure access in their lives.

These issues have become fundamental policy concepts for the rural development of Timor-Leste. The fundamental question is whether or not these policy decisions have been realized and whether they have brought any real benefits to the lives of communities in rural areas during the past seven years. If there was any success what is the measure of such success? If this process has occurred successfully, what are its indicators? In this way we can assess and ascertain how and whether the development process of rural areas

have really had a positive impact on people's lives, or do we need another mechanism or strategy to fix the system or policies that are currently being employed.

Kelly Silva, Department of Anthropology, University of Brasília
Brazil

Regionalization Processes of the East Timor Social Conflicts

The main focus of my attention in this text is the so-called political and social *crisis* that occurred in East Timor, particularly in Dili, in 2006. It was constituted of a set of conflicts within the country's security forces, which, subsequently, spread among part of the civil society, generating a series of collective disturbances that became publicly justified due to disputes between populations of *Lorosa'e/Firaku* origin, on the one hand, and *Loromonu/Kaladi*, on the other. I suggest that important dimensions of the facts that constituted the *crisis* may be better understood when taking into account the way certain phenomena of a specific political and symbolic order were articulated in it: 1) the historical background to the structuring of the East Timorese resistance to Indonesian occupation; and 2) the reciprocity principle as a structuring value of local sociability (Fox, 1980). I propose such a perspective of analysis, also bringing into the discussion some of the aspects configuring two other social clashes in Timor that have occurred recently: 1) the disputes between the Catholic Church and the Fretilin government regarding the statute of the discipline of religious teaching in the public schools, in 2005; and 2) the presidential elections that took place in 2007. Based on exploration of the dialectic among phenomena of a symbolic and historical order (Sahlins, 1990 [1985]), I sustain that the disruptive potential of the opposition between *Lorosa'e/Firaku* and *Loromonu/Kaladi* take place in the manner it was appropriated by different political forces in East Timor in 2006, evoking the historical background of the resistance and suffering of the East Timorese during the Indonesian occupation, in a social scenario where reciprocity (Mauss, 1975 [1925]) and compensation are important ideas (Simião, 2005; Soares, 1999).

Leopoldina Joana Guterres

Baguia, Baucau, Timor Leste

Working With My Rural Community In Baguia To Develop The Nation

My presentation will be about the many development difficulties faced by Baguia because the government is not paying attention to our community, although the community has began to develop itself with support from international benefactors.

Baguia is one sub-district in the district of Baucau, Timor-Leste. Baguia borders with Viqueque and Lospalos. Baucau is 84 kilometers away from Baguia. Baguia has no telephone line, no internet, no access to national radio, it has no transport, the road is bad and education poor. Despite these problems the community is ready to develop due to:

- International donors who are kind to the community
- People who provide motivation for the community to work.
- Huge sacrifices from donors and members of the community such as children, men and women, help from leaders that provide the drive for development.
- Mutual and clear understanding in the community, belief and respect in the community is the important factor for the community to carry out development.
- Knowledgeable people needed to organize the community to carry out development.

From my presentation I hope that rural areas will find future opportunities to give their ideas.

Lia Kent, University of Melbourne

Australia

The Challenge of Building an Inclusive Victims' Rights Movement: The Politics of Justice, Remembrance and Reparations

Over the last ten years, a strong East Timorese civil society movement has emerged with a focus on 'justice' for victims of human rights violations under the Indonesian occupation. NGOs have advocated for the need for an international tribunal to try members of the Indonesian military, and more recently, have campaigned for reparations and assisted local communities to commemorate past massacres. In contrast to official nation-building discourses, which focus on remembering a 'heroic' version of the past and forging new relations with Indonesia, this movement draws attention to *unreconciled* experiences and unfinished business.

In this paper, I explore some of the possibilities and limits of this victims' rights movement, including the extent to which it may contribute to the development of a more inclusive national identity. While the discourse of victims' rights is broadening existing narratives about the past and empowering *some* victims to voice their demands to the state, the focus on individual reparations may also be fostering competition between victims and other groups, and amongst different kinds of victims, who are engaged in the struggle for resources and recognition. I suggest that to build a more inclusive movement, NGOs and others working to promote victims' rights need to broaden and deepen this discourse in order to explore the structural dimensions of violence and foster solidarity and connectedness amongst different kinds of victims.

M. Anne Brown, University of Queensland

Australia

Nation-building in Timor Leste and the Formation of Political Community.

The international community has primarily pursued security and development in Timor Leste through a state-building program. Despite the importance of working state institutions, however, this focus has in practice attempted to replace engaging with the complex formation of national political community with a reductionist process of institutional transfer. Rapid institutional transfer can leave institutions responsive to international demands but disconnected from local social values, weakening potential for effectiveness or legitimacy. By contrast, 'nation-building' or supporting the formation of political community, could be seen as emphasizing the vital, often undervalued, connection between effective governance and legitimacy. As with many states bearing a legacy of violence, Timor Leste is struggling with complex socio-political division. There is a danger that state-building understood as institutional transfer adds to these divisions, leading to deep gulfs between government and the largely rural population, between government and major belief systems and between local efforts to rebuild community and the public discourse of political life. Such divisions undermine effective or participatory governance and contribute to popular alienation. This paper argues that 'nation-building' in East Timor, or the emergence of national political community that supports the well-being and participation of its members, calls for building deeper connections between state institutions and local values and governance mechanisms.

Maria Zulmira Alves Soares, Caritas Australia

Dili, Timor Leste

The Process of Building Safe Houses/Shelters in Timor-Leste

In this presentation I will talk mostly about Caritas Australia's work experience from its program *Harii Dame/Prevensaun Violensia iha Komunitade no Familia* through the Victims Assistance Project. In 2005 CA began the program *Harii Uma Mahon/Fatin Hakmatek – Building of Safe Houses/Shelters* together with four partners. Currently 3 Safe Houses and 1 Shelter have been completed and are operating with full facilities. In the safe houses most of the cases are of domestic violence and sexual assault. The most prevalent cases of sexual assault are incest committed by fathers, grandfathers, uncles, nephews or by neighbors or people that are suspected to be known by the victim. The age of the victims of this violence range 9 to 18 years of age and most come to the safe house 5/7 months pregnant and without much family assistance.

We have seen that the safe house truly helps the victims in rural areas as most of the victims come from the *suku* and *aldeia* that have no access to information. This program or project also helps develop Timor-Leste since the safe houses built in the districts by Caritas Australia helps the government respond to the needs of women and provide a solution to their problems. Caritas Australia also has established a support network for the Safe Houses by working together with the Hospitals, Police, VPU, district MSS, as well as with national and international NGO's with programs on Gender Based Violence.

The Safe House is a place that provides shelter to women facing problems and helps them resolve their own problems. We all need to give much attention to this issue of Gender based Violence, more specifically the Safe House program in assisting victims. We need to work together to support women that have become victims, to advocate promote and campaign on their behalf as there are many such women who are still no brave enough to speak out about their problems.

Nuno Vasco Oliveira

Adviser to the Secretary of State, Culture, República Democrática de Timor-Leste
Portugal

How can archaeology from the last 10.000 years inform on food security issues in Timor-Leste today?

In the last five years, I undertook archaeological investigations in Timor-Leste aiming at finding out what people ate in various moments of the past. Although we know some crops were brought in with the first colonial contacts (e.g. maize, sweet potato, cassava, etc.), many others may have been here long ago. In this paper I will discuss some of the results of my research project, and will argue that the existent evidence for ca. 10,000 years of subsistence practices based in a diverse range of food crops could be useful to approach issues of food security, self-sufficient agriculture and sustainability in Timor-Leste today.

Olandina Mendonca Do Rego, CTRA

Aileu, Timor-Leste

Equality between women and men in Timor Leste

In this opportunity I will talk about equality between women and men in everyday life. My presentation will focus on two important things in my own community.

First, gender will provide dignity for people in families and in society. Second, we can see that things have changed. For example: In the old days women could not go out, women had to serve and did not go to school. Nowadays, women are free to participate in all areas and some men also do house work.

I ask all women and men not to forget that you are the ones who have to promote gender equality in society. Let us all come together and promote gender equality in our country.

Susana Barnes, Monash University

Great Britain

Understanding the National at the Local in Timor-Leste

This paper examines how national processes and discourses are experienced at the local level. In particular, it focuses on the community of *suku* Babulo where political violence following the Presidential decision to allow AMP (*Aliansa Maioria Parlamentaria*) to form government led to the widespread destruction of houses and population displacement. At the time the national political leadership dismissed the violence as part of a 'ancient feud' between *Makassae* and *Naueti* ethno-linguistic groups. Not only does this analysis fail to consider the historical impact of Portuguese colonialism and Indonesian occupation in forging a sense of national unity but it also neglects the deep commitment and desire of rural communities to participate in the nation-building process. I would argue that in the absence of more meaningful and respectful engagement between the national leadership and rural communities, the violence experienced in Babulo may be interpreted as a symptom of the growing frustration of rural communities with their exclusion from the nation-building process.

Teresinha M.N.Cardoso, Caucus Feto

Dili, Timor Leste

The Role of Gender in the Nation-Building Process: Urban and Rural

The East Timorese people's idea of gender is that of women, gender is the rights of women, gender is equal rights between men and women. As citizens of Timor-Leste, women and men have the right and the duty to participate in the development of the nation and the state of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The concept of 'Democratic Nation' is established in the RDTL Constitution, to promote Gender Equality is set in Section 17 and Section 63 promotes a democratic system.

Talking about the role of gender in the nation-building process means we are talking about women's and men's participation in the process of building the State of Timor-Leste. A State which elects through the will of the people through universal, direct and free elections.

The election system establishes positive action in promoting gender equality thus ensuring women's presence in political positions and it involves women in the decision-making structures. To strengthen the role of gender in development with a gender-orientated perspective, the government through its Office for the Promotion of Gender Equality assumes a great political responsibility towards the policy of gender mainstreaming/ integration of gender in all sectors, cooperates and coordinates inter Ministerial work sensitive to the needs of women and men.

To achieve gender equality in the whole development process and to strengthen the system of democratic government, the government has developed the capacity-building program for women in rural areas called 'Programe for Empowering Rural Women's Leadership' (PERWL) and the Civic Education Program in territory of Timor-Leste.

Democracy without women's participation is not democracy since democracy promotes gender equality as a fundamental principle of respect for human dignity. Rights and duties are values of the democratic culture and national identity of Timor-Leste.

Camilo Da Costa Barros (Alieu) will be making a breif presentation on Justice in Timor-Leste to the first discussion group on justice on Thursday 9 July.

Conference Publication

In the following months a publication based on the conference will be produce. This will carry information about the conference, each speaker's abstracts, and photos. Importantly, it is an opportunity for people to write either a short comment or a longer article. Presenters from the conference could further develop their presentations into an article, and conference participants are most welcome to also make a submission to the publication. These could include;

- A short comment on one of the conference themes.
- A longer article based on one of the conference themes.
- A short article about your experiences in your community or on Timor-Leste as a nation
- A reflection on your participation in the conference
- Your ideas and hopes for the future, especially about Timor-Leste

The objective of this publication is to give all involved in the conference an opportunity to present their ideas and to do so in a way that can be heard and read by the many people in Timor-Leste and internationally, now and in the future. The report will then be fully translated into Tetun and English and distributed freely across Timor-Leste and internationally.

Only submissions that are clearly relevant and relate to the conference themes will be accepted, and all submissions will be edited for clarity and consistency.

There are three ways that you are able to submit your writing for the publication;

- Please give them to Damian Grenfell during the conference,
- Send them to damian.grenfell@rmit.edu.au
- Send or give them to Janu (Conference Organizer) in FONGTIL, Caicoli, Dili.

We will only accept submissions up until 30 August 2009.

We would like to thank all people and organizations who have helped and supported this conference