



The Inaugural NSW Timor-Leste Forum

“Building Collaborative Partnerships for Timor-Leste”



University of
Western Sydney

Saturday, 14 July 2012

10am-5pm

University of Western Sydney

Parramatta Campus



Support for Timor-Leste communities is provided from a wide range of different sources. Governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, international aid bodies, religious organisations and, importantly, grassroots philanthropic organisations working in Timor-Leste have provided many different kinds of aid to support the new nation in various ways. However, there is need for a more integrated and collaborative approach to increase the impact of these aid efforts so as to enhance the local initiatives of East Timorese NGOs and community groups.

The aim of this forum is to create a space for new dialogues between organisations and community groups that have experienced the challenges of and developed expertise in collaborating with Timor-Leste communities. The forum will facilitate the exchange of different perspectives and practices, and offers the opportunity for those committed to change in Timor-Leste to identify collaborative initiatives between government aid agencies, researchers and community organisations currently involved in the provision of aid in the country.

Through attendees' participation in the workshops, the forum aims to generate constructive dialogues and debates about how best to optimise the multifarious existing supporting efforts. It will promote the sharing of ideas and experience between Australian NGOs, community groups, government aid bodies and academics working with Timor-Leste NGOs and communities.

Keynote address

Ms Kirsty Sword Gusmao, Former First Lady of Timor-Leste and Goodwill Ambassador for Education, Director of Alola Foundation

Triologue for Timor-Leste: Challenges of international engagement

1. Jude Finch, Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters, Former AVI Timor Leste
'Working Collaboratively on the Ground'
2. Professor Damien Kingsbury, Director, Centre for Citizenship, Development and Human Rights, Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University, Melbourne
'Friends as well as Neighbours'
3. Representative of governmental aid provider in Timor-Leste

Parallel Workshops for supporting education in Timor-Leste

Focussing on issues such as culture, language, partnerships and challenges, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with others on any of the following Workshop themes:

1. Pre-school and primary education
2. Early literacy and the mother-tongue project
3. Library programs
4. Informal Education Centres and adult education
5. Scholarships (local & overseas)
6. Student exchanges: higher education; vocational education and training for trade skills
7. Educating future educators and other professionals
8. Training programs for productive community activities (agriculture; handicrafts; tourism, etc)
9. Health Education
10. Educational infrastructure: School buildings; solar and water facilities, etc

Registration (includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas)

Early-bird registration until Friday 22 June

- Waged: \$50
- Concession: \$30

Full registration (after 22 June)

- Waged: \$65
- Concession: \$45

Register online:

[Register here](#)

For more information contact:

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***The Forum is a partnership between The Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters
and
the University of Western Sydney, Institute for Culture and Society
and the Sustainability and Social Research Group***