



# UNDP Timor-Leste **ELECTORAL PROJECT**

Newsletter

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## PROJECT UPDATES

### Project Secures Additional Funds to Support National Institutions

UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN has been provided with additional financial support from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for the period of two years (2017-2019). These additional funds will support the ongoing activities of the project that have been focusing on strengthening the capacity of national institutions.

The activities of the project are conducted in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16- "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

The new partnership between UNDP and KOICA was established through a signing ceremony on 4th December by Mr. Claudio Providas, Country Director of UNDP and Mr. Kyungmoo Jun, Country Director of KOICA for a



newly launched programme, "Enhancing Public Sector Accountability through Institutional Strengthening in Anti-Corruption and Decentralization in Timor-Leste 2017-2019." The programme will conduct its activities through three components- Anti-Corruption; Supporting Effective Service Delivery and Decentralized Public Administration; and Strengthening Democratic Participation and Citizenship at the Municipal Level. LEARN project will incorporate the third component and will be managed under the project's existing framework.

### Comprehensive Training for Strengthening the Capacity of Journalists launched

UNDP Electoral Project in partnership with Press Council as part of political journalism component launched a comprehensive training programme for journalists on 18 January in Dili. The launching event was attended by Vice-Minister for Commerce and Industry, Secretary of State for Council of Ministers and Social Communication, President of Press Council, Representative from Government of Japan and Representatives from UNDP Electoral Project.

The training will be provided to 20 pre-selected journalists of Timor-Leste with participatory education techniques and distinctive activity based approach. The focus will



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be on improving the capacity of journalists serving in key media such as print, broadcast and online for open, diverse and self-sustaining media sector that provides Timorese a platform for engaging in informed dialogue to encourage accountability and development.

With the support from Electoral Project of UNDP, Press Council will run the training programme for six months consisting two modules every week starting from February. Please visit the link for a promotional video of the training programme: <https://youtu.be/nW0kO-aFWQs>

## CSOs Receives Grants for Raising Awareness on Women Political Participation

UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN has awarded grants to two women organizations in Timor-Leste to strengthen the women's political participation especially at the time of municipal elections. The two women organizations, CAUCUS and Movimentu Feto Foin Sa'e (MOFFE) are one of the leading organizations working for the rights of women in Timor-Leste, will conduct activities in the municipalities to raise awareness within the public and political stakeholders for the positive impact of women's political participation.

These organizations will create an enabling environment for civil society organisations (CSOs), specialized in gender equality and gender mainstreaming, to assist political parties to perform their capacity-building activities for female politicians. It aims to strengthen the women political leaders' analytical skills and critical thinking to ensure women's meaningful participation at all levels of decision-making.



## Timorese Journalists felicitated by Press Council

The Press Council of Timor-Leste recognized and accredited 216 professional journalists those who have contributed to the independence of Timor-Leste between 1975-1999. The journalists were felicitated with certificates and Press ID card. UNDP Electoral Project-LEARN works closely with the Press Council to improve the capacity of journalists supported in organising this event and also providing them with ID card printing device that was distributed to the felicitated journalists.





## Media Forum held with Journalists

Okinawa Peace Assistance Center (OPAC) with the support from UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN and media organizations conducted a Media Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> December in Dili. The Forum was to raise awareness on the roles of each media sector and promote civic engagement from the experience of coverage during the parliamentary elections 2017.

Journalists from community radio, television, print and online medias as well as students from media

department participated to discuss their experience on successes and challenges related to media coverage during the parliamentary elections in 2017. The journalists submitted recommendations on the role of media in elections which aims to help the project and media to revise its strategy while implementing activities for journalists in the future.



## Bid Adieu to Senior Electoral Adviser



UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN would like to congratulate Senior Electoral Adviser, Giovanni D'Amato for his new assignment in UNICEF- Angola as a Head of Department of the Child Protection Unit. The project is highly indebted for providing his expertise and transferring his experience and knowledge to national and international colleagues especially during the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in 2017. Wishing him the very best for his future endeavour.



## Project Stands in Solidarity for Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls

UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN supported the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and girls with this year theme “Leave No One Behind”. The 16 days campaign conducted several awareness campaign for ending discrimination against women and girls. The project is promoting women

participation in the electoral and political processes through different activities. Responding to the Women campaign “Orange the World” the project has been able to stand in solidarity to symbolize a brighter future without violence in Timor-Leste.



### UNDP Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN)

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#### PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

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