



Press Release

Grand Breaking Ceremony of the “Project of River Training for the Protection of Mola Bridge”

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Today, The Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, represented by H.E. Sr. Eng. Gasto Francisco de Sousa, Minister for Public Works, had the Grand Breaking Ceremony of the “Project of River Training for the Protection of Mola Bridge”, which is Grant Aid Cooperation Project by the Government of Japan aiming to provide reinforcement to the existing Mola Bridge in Zumalai Sub-District in Covalima District.

The Mola Bridge was first built in 1996 during the Indonesian time but it was severely damaged over the course of time and disrupted community livelihood. It was when the Government of Japan reconstructed it under the “Project for Construction of Mola Bridge” signed in 2008 and completed in 2011 allowing the bridge to connect the two sides of the river again. However, the bridge has been exposed to the risk of seasonal flash floods.

It has always been central to the Japanese assistance to Timor-Leste to ensure sustainable management of our projects. When the need for bolstering the bridge became obvious, the Government of Japan realized that its assistance was necessary to do the job. This realization led us to the E/N signing in March 2013 for a detailed design of the bridge protection and, based on this design, the signing of the E/N of the Project in August 2013.

It is expected that the living standard of the community will be improved by making the bridge even more reliable and sustainable. It will be easier for them to gain access to education, healthcare and marketplaces on the other side of the river. Furthermore, the benefits of the rehabilitated bridge system will pave the way for faster development of the southern coast, which is stipulated in the Strategic Development Plan, as well as serving as a trunk route connecting further north with Dili.

(End)