

**Short Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada, Ambassador of Japan
to Timor-Leste on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary
Commemorative Cultural Event at the Dili Convention Center
on February 17, 2013**

Good evening,

I'm very honored to share this auspicious moment here today. Today's cultural event is the culmination of the 10th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between our two nations. I am sure that besides economic and technical cooperation in infrastructure and human capacity building, interactions between the two peoples such as high-level visits and youth exchange programs would further deepen our friendship and solidarity for decade. This evening, we are going to present a music performance, which is a collaboration between Timorese and Japanese musicians.

Timor-Leste, which is on the right track to full-fledged development after the withdrawal of UNMIT last year, is one of Japan's most cordial partners for prosperity and stability in the Asia Pacific region. Japan places importance on Timor-Leste not only as a peace-loving country in this region, but also as a major partner in promoting common values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The music performance this evening will signify the harmony of our

two countries' tradition and culture. The musicians are also sending out an impressive message on how irreplaceable our nature is and why we need to preserve our natural heritage as you can see in the title of this event, *"Care for the Environment and Create Cultural Relations"*.

I would especially like to thank Mr. Ego Lemos, one of the most prominent musicians and environmentalists in Timor-Leste for arranging this wonderful event with the Japanese artists here. Your generous commitment will be one of our inseparable memories on the occasion of the 10th anniversary.

Last but not least, I would like to close my remarks with my special gratitude to Foreign Minister Guterres for kindly attending this cultural event today. It is our utmost honor and pleasure to be with you today. I hope you all fully enjoy this music concert with us.

Thank you very much.

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