

Press Release

**Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Norio Mitsuya,
Visits Timor-Leste to Enhance the Bilateral Relationship between Timor-Leste and Japan**



On 5 May, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Norio Mitsuya, arrived in Dili for a 2-day official visit. Upon arrival, he expressed his joy to be able to visit Timor-Leste. The first site he visited was the site for the “Project for Construction of Upriver Comoro Bridge,” for which the Government of Japan has decided a grant for Detailed-Design (DD) up to eighty-six million Japanese Yen to implement.

Mr. Mitsuya also paid courtesy calls on H.E. Mr. Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and H.E. Mr. Adriano do Nascimento, Acting President of the National Parliament and President of the TL-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League. Mr. Mitsuya expressed his respect to Timor-Leste for its implementation of nation building based on democracy, and stressed that Japan would like to further develop the future-oriented, amicable and close relationship between the two countries by supporting Timor-Leste’s efforts to promote full-fledged development. Mr. Mitsuya also appreciated the recent frequent visits at political level between two countries.

Prior to his official visit to Timor-Leste, Mr. Mitsuya stopped by Bali, Indonesia where he paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. They shared the view to continue the cooperation in the international arena.

Tomorrow, 6 May, Mr. Mitsuya is scheduled to pay courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Taur Matan Ruak and also visit a couple of sites which relate to Japan’s assistance to Timor-Leste.

Press Release

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Visits Timor-Leste to Enhance the Bilateral Relationship between Timor-Leste and Japan
(Day 2)**



On the second day of his official visit to Timor-Leste, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Norio Mitsuya, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Mari Alkatiri, former Prime Minister, Secretary General for FRETILIN and Coordinator of Social Market Special Economic Zone (ZEESM), and they discussed possible bilateral cooperation in economic development of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Mitsuya paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Taur Matan Ruak. Mr. Mitsuya said that Japan would continue to support the Timor-Leste's efforts for nation building and reiterated the importance of capacity building and infrastructure development. Mr. Mitsuya stated Japan's intention to participate in CPLP as an observer and they shared the view to cooperate in the international arena.

After the meeting, Mr. Mitsuya drove on the National Road No.1, which the Government of Japan has decided to extend Japanese Yen Loan to Timor-Leste, the first-ever foreign loan in Timor-Leste, for its upgrade. Mr. Mitsuya also visited UNTL where "Project for Capacity Development of Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology" by the Government of Japan is underway and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Advisors and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) are dispatched. This concludes his official visit to Timor-Leste and Mr. Mitsuya left for the next official visit destination.