



August 15, 2013

Press Release

Exchange of Notes (E/N) Signing Ceremony for the “*Project of River Training for the Protection of Mola Bridge*”  
Thursday, August 15, 2013

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Dili

Today, The Governments of Japan and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, represented by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada, Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste, and H.E. Dr. Jose Luis Guterres, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, signed an Exchange of Notes (E/N) for the “Project of River Training for the Protection of Mola Bridge” at the signing ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Dili.

By signing the E/N, the Government of Japan commits 1,108,000,000 Japanese Yen (approximately 11 million USD) to implementing the project, which aims 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 then severely damaged and the consequences were 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 that the bridge connected the two sides of the river once 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 intervention was necessary to do the job. This realization led us to the E/N signing in March this year for a detailed design of the bridge

protection and, based on this design, the signing of the E/N today.

It is expected that the living standard of the community people will increase 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.

The Government of Japan strongly hopes that this project will be implemented in a timely and appropriate manner through close cooperation and coordination between both the governments.

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*For further information, contact the Embassy of Japan in Timor-Leste at 332-3131/2.*