

Remarks by Ambassador Hanada
On the Occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the Capacity
Building Project for F-FDTL
December 12, 2012
Metinaro, Dili

Col. Falur Rate Laek, Chief of Staff,
Lt. Col. Joan Pedoro da Silva, Commander of the Service and
Support Component,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bondia.

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this landmark project, which is to be conducted by the Japanese Ministry of Defense to assist the F-FDTL in building its capacity in the fields of humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

As the first-of-its-kind project, JDRAC, a Japanese NGO contracted with the Ministry of Defense, will train the F-FDTL members to develop car maintenance capacity. It is with the understanding that it is crucially important that F-FDTL vehicles are in good shape all the time to ensure swift and timely response in the event of a disaster and other occasions where people are in desperate need of their help.

This project might seem a rather small-scale contribution. But the Government of Japan attaches great importance to it taking into consideration that humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are major security challenges of our time. We strongly believe that building capacity of the F-FDTL in these areas will greatly enhance the effectiveness and relevance of it in order to better serve the people of Timor-Leste.

With this project now starting, the Government of Japan is also proud of being able to continue its decade-long support to Timor-Leste in the security and defense areas. The past and ongoing Japanese assistance includes the UN peacekeeping operations, study program at the National Defense Academy, various seminars and forums. This project stands out among others because of the fact that it provides direct and on-the-ground assistance to the F-FDTL, especially when the UN PKO mission is coming to a close at the end of this year.

It is our sincere hope that this project will be well-embraced by the Government and the people of Timor-Leste as an important addition to our multi-faceted assistance to Timor-Leste such as infrastructure and rural development.

Obrigado barak.

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