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the People of Japan

Press Release

Ambassador of Japan in Timor-Leste Honors A.C.I Sisters and CDIC with Ambassador's Commendations

29 June, 2016

On 29 June, 2016, Mr. Eiji Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste awarded Ambassador's Commendation to A.C.I Sisters (Escravas do Sagrado Coração de Jesus) in Timor-Leste and the Japanese NGO CDIC (Community-based Development Initiatives Center) for their outstanding contributions to the development of Timor-Leste at the grass-roots level as well as the strengthening of bilateral relations between Japan and Timor-Leste.

A.C.I Sisters, currently based in Rome, was established by Saint Rafaela Maria in Spain in 1877. Sister Mónica Nakamura, former superior in Timor-Leste, had been serving the people of Timor-Leste since 1980s. Currently Sister Inés Oleaga is the superior of the community. A.C.I Sisters are actively engaged mainly in the area of education, including kindergarten, primary school, free school, girls' dormitory, student scholarship as well as youth formation. Besides these activities, their support reaches former refugees from 1999 who are still staying in West Timor and wish to return to Timor-Leste. It should be also noted that, as part of their activities, a Japanese Language course is being held in Dili, which also helps consolidate the relationship between Timor-Leste and Japan.

Community-based Development Initiatives Center (CDIC) is a Japan-based NGO engaged in the fields of forestry and agriculture in Timor-Leste. Mr. Masatsugu Sugimoto, Director of CDIC, has played an important role to establish a linkage between Japan and Timor-Leste by supporting independence movement in the country. CDIC has been currently working in the area of forest preservation and afforestation in Liquica in cooperation with the local partner "Organizasaun Mankledu" under the JICA-funded grass-roots project called "Project for Unity Building through Tree Planting and Conservation of Watershed Areas in Maumeta Village". The efforts by CIDC and Organizasaun Mankledu resulted in a better understanding of afforestation in the local community.

At the ceremony, Ambassador Yamamoto stressed that "the activities of the A.C.I Sisters and NGO CDIC contributed to the development of Timor-Leste for a long time at the grass-roots level". "Over the years, they have worked very closely with the Timorese people on the ground for the benefits of the local community".

The ceremony was also attended by these organizations' partners, as well as representatives of the Timorese government, H.E. Mr. Hernâni Coelho, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and H.E. Mr. Avelino Maria Coelho da Silva, the Secretary of State for the Council of Minister, and other significant guests. (End)

For further information, please contact Economy Cooperation Section in the Embassy of Japan, Dili at 332 3131/2

**Embaixador Japaun Fó Onra ba Irmãs A.C.I. no CDIC ho Embaixadór
nia Komendasaun**

29 Junŭ, 2016

Iha loron 29 Junŭ, 2016, Sr. Eiji Yamamoto, Embaixadór Japaun nian ba Timor-Leste fó premiu komendasaun Embaixadór nian ba Irmãs A.C.I (Escravas do Sagrado Coração de Jesus) iha Timor-Leste, no ONG Japaun CDIC (Community-based Development Initiatives Center) ba sira-nia kontribuisaun ekselente ba dezvoltimentu Timor-Leste nian iha nível rurál, no mós ba hametin relasaun bilateral entre Timor-Leste no Japaun.

Irmãs A.C.I sira, atualmente baze iha Roma ne'ebe mak estabelese ona husi Santa Rafaela Maria iha España iha tinan 1877. Irmã Mónica Nakamura, eis-superiór iha Timor-Leste, servi ona povu Timor-Leste dezde tinan 1980s. Agora dadaun Irmã Inés Oleaga mak superiór ba comunidade nian. Irmãs A.C.I nia ativamente foka liu ba iha área edukasaun, inklui eskola pre-primária, eskola primária, kursu gratuita, dormitóriu ba estudante feto sira, bolsu estudu ba estudante sira no mos formasaun ba juventude sira. Aleinde atividades hirak ne'e, sira-nia ajuda mós ba eis-refugiadu husi tinan 1999 nian ne'ebe mak sei hela iha Timor-Osidental no hakarak atu mai fali Timor-Leste. Mos, ida ne'e tenke nota ona katak hanesan parte ida husi sira nia atividade, iha kursu lian-Japonés nian ne'ebe hala'o hela iha Dili, no ida ne'e mós ajuda atu hametin relasaun entre Timor-Leste no Japaun.

Community-based Development Center (CDIC) mak Sentru Inisiativa ba Dezvoltimentu Baze iha Komunitade, ONG Japaun ida ne'ebe envolve ona iha área florestál no agrikultura iha Timor-Leste. Sr. Masatsugu Sugimoto, nudar Diretor CDIC, dezempeña papel ida ne'ebe importante atu estabelese ligasaun entre Japaun ho Timor-Leste hodi suporta ba movimentu indepêndensia iha nasaun ne'e. Oras ne'e CDIC hala'o servisu iha área preservasau no arborizasaun florestál iha Liquica, iha kooperasaun ho parseiru lokál "Organizasaun Mankledu" liu husi projetu ba nível rurál fundu JICA nian, hanaran "Projetu ba Harii Unidade liu husi Kuda Ai-oan no Konservasaun Área Mota ninin iha Suku Maumeta". Esforsu ne'e hala'o husi CDIC no Organizasaun Mankledu ne'ebe fó ona resultadu ho diak ba arborizasaun iha comunidade lokál.

Iha serimónia ne'e, Embaixadór Yamaoto subliña katak, "*atividades Irmãs A.C. I. no ONG CDIC kontribui ona ba devenvolvimentu Timor-Leste ba tempu naruk iha nivel rurál*" "*Iha tinan barak nia laran, sira servisu besik liu ho povu Timor-Leste iha rai ida ne'e hodi fó benefisiu ba comunidade lokál sira*".

Iha serimonia ne'e partisipa ona husi organizasaun sira-ne'e nia parseiru sira, no mós representante sira husi governu Timor-Leste, S.E. Sr. Hernâni Coelho, Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus no Kooperasaun, S.E. Sr. Avelino Maria Coelho da Silva, Sekretáriu Estadu Konsellu Ministrus, no konvidadu signifkante sira seluk.

(Remata)