



From
the People of Japan

February 20, 2018

Press Release

Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Project for the Construction of New Buildings for the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology of the National University of Timor-Leste

On the 20th of February 2018, a Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Project for the Construction of New Buildings for the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology (FEST) of the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) funded by the Government of Japan was held at Hera Campus of UNTL in Dili.

The ceremony was organized by the UNTL and attended by H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Minami, Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste, H.E Mr. Mari Alkatiri, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and other government members, members of the National Parliament, Ambassadors, representatives from private sector, students and staff of UNTL, and the people of local communities.

The Government of Japan has committed to provide the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste with a grant amounting to 2.231 billion yen (approximately USD 21 million) to finance the project. It aims to contribute to an improvement in the learning environment of university researchers and students and it will bring development of industrial human resources in Timor-Leste.

UNTL's FEST is located in Hera of Dili Municipality. As a part of a "Strategic Plan 2011-2020 of UNTL" which aims to transform itself into a credible academic institution of the level with international standards by 2020, UNTL started in on series of its relocation plan of the faculties to Hera Campus.

Timor-Leste has since long encouraged the development and improvement of higher education by granting funds for overseas programs/scholarships and getting domestic universities in better shape. In 2012, the Faculty extended its Degree Programs Term from three years to four years, and augmented the number of departments from four to five, however, it does not have faculty buildings sufficient enough to accommodate the increased number of students. In such circumstances, the Government of Timor-Leste and the Government of Japan signed official Notes in 2016 concerning Grant Aid Cooperation to develop new buildings and facilities for FEST of UNTL.

At the ceremony, it was explained that Japan and FEST has a long cooperation history started from 2001 through urgent rehabilitation of FEST followed by dispatching Japanese experts and volunteer, technical cooperation projects and Solar Panel Installation. Ambassador Minami remarked with three wishes that "First, I wish every success of this project. Second, I wish that many young talented students will emerge from this faculty, and lastly I strongly wish that this beautiful country, Timor-Leste, will enjoy prosperity and development in the peaceful society."

The construction work will be implemented by Rinkai Nissan Construction Co., Ltd with the equipment supplied by Ogawa Seiki Co., Ltd., under the supervision of the Consortium of Yamashita Sekkei Inc. and Intem Consulting, Inc.

The Project includes some construction parts such as (1) classrooms and laboratories with necessary number of rooms for five departments, (2) the stepped Auditorium with about 400 seats, (3) Library, and (4) equipment and materials for education and laboratory use. The project is expected to be completed in July 2019 at this time.

For more information please contact:

The Embassy of Japan in Timor-Leste at 3323131/2
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The Project is an inseparable component of another Japan's long-time Technical Cooperation Project between UNTL and Japan (JICA), namely CADEFEST. JICA has stroke out a 10 year-long Capacity Development Program (CADEFEST) with placing Japanese Professors and one Program Coordinator in Hera Campus in its basic formulation, aiming to accelerate UNTL's efforts to develop Human Resources in Engineering, Science and Technology in Timor-Leste as a whole and especially in UNTL. The CADEFEST has set out for its Phase II term since August 2016 for another 5 years.

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