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## **Press Release**

### **Embassy of Japan and PARCIC Held a Workshop on Japanese Flower Arrangement “IKEBANA” to Promote Local Flowers**

**Dili, 8th October 2024** – The Embassy of Japan in Timor-Leste and PARCIC, a Japanese NGO, held a workshop on the Japanese Flower Arrangement called “IKEBANA” for government officials and staffs of local flower shops in Dili to promote local flowers. The workshop is part of the activity of a “Project for Children’s Nutrition Improvement by Improving Women’s Livelihoods” implemented by PARCIC with funds from the Government of Japan.

In Timor-Leste, the poverty rate is particularly high in the mountainous areas, and the stunting rate among children under five years old is also high in the same areas. Although efforts to enhance knowledge on nutrition have been expanding in Timor-Leste, mothers have difficulty applying the knowledge and cooking nutritious food in their homes as they lack opportunities to earn enough income to buy nutritious ingredients.

To address these challenges, this project aims to improve household nutrition in three municipalities, Aileu, Ainaro and Ermera, by introducing floriculture to women. This will increase their income and enable them to purchase nutritious food. Additionally, the project promotes the sharing of knowledge on how to cook nutritious meals among rural women.

For this year, the goal of this project is to get production and sales on track. The workshop was held to promote local flowers by offering a first hand experience of Japanese flower arrangement, IKEBANA, an art of subtraction, which accentuates the beauty of flower itself. IKEBANA is a Japanese tradition origin established around 600 years ago and is enjoyed by people from all over the world.

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