



## **Australia Timor-Leste Business Council Briefing by the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste**

On Monday 7 December 2015, Mr Denis Fernandez, President of the Australia Timor-Leste Business Council (ATLBC) met with His Excellency Mr Peter Doyle, Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste.

The ATLBC and the business communities in both countries have been observing how the effect of not having a maritime boundary is limiting business investments in both countries. The ATLBC encourages the Australian Government to negotiate with Timor-Leste to establish a maritime boundary guided by international law.

The ATLBC believes certainty provided by a permanent maritime boundary is good for business in both Timor-Leste and Australia.

The ATLBC aims to assist both the Commonwealth of Australia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to develop mutually beneficial business relationships in accordance with the organic law of Timor-Leste.

During the discussion the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste discussed the bilateral relationship with Timor-Leste, including the Timor Sea. The Ambassador informed that following the consultation between the Commonwealth of Australia and Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in regard to establishing a framework to establish a maritime boundary between Australia and Timor-Leste, which at the conclusion of the timeframe set by Timor-Leste occurred in March 2015 and that a framework for future consultation had not been reached. The Ambassador informed that nothing had been determined and it was in Timor-Leste's "court" to resolve and not the Australian Government.

In regard to the development of Greater Sunrise, the Ambassador informed that that Australian Government's position is that the *Treaty on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea* is still in place. This is despite that the Timor-Leste Government has declared that the treaty is void as the nation claims that the Australian Government carried out espionage during the course of the negotiation of the treaty.

As a part of the discussion, Mr Fernandez informed the Ambassador that one of the underlying principles of companies doing business in Timor-Leste is the assessment of sovereign risk; and that a number of companies have not established a presence in Timor-Leste because both nations have not reached agreement on a maritime boundary.

Today, also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the Indonesian military into Timor where countless atrocities occurred to the Timorese.

Lest We Forget!

**Authorised by:**

**Mr Denis Fernandez, President, Australia Timor-Leste Business Council.**

**Contact:**

**Mr Alexander Weilsmann, Chair, Government Relations and Protocol,  
Australia Timor-Leste Business Council.**

**Mobile: (+61 2) 417 294 244**

**Email: [alexander@weilsmann.com.au](mailto:alexander@weilsmann.com.au)**

**[www.atlbc.org](http://www.atlbc.org)**