





UNIVERSITIES  
AUSTRALIA

DISCOVER LEARN LEAD

Chief Executive:  
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2 April 2013

Dr John Carter  
Foreign Affairs Sub Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Dr Carter

**Re: Inquiry into Australia's relationship with Timor-Leste**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Inquiry. Universities Australia and its members have engaged in substantial and ongoing work in Timor-Leste and with the Timor-Leste government. We welcome the opportunity to update the Committee on progress to date.

In early March 2012, Professor Glyn Davis convened a meeting of Vice-Chancellors and the Timor-Leste Education Minister, Dr Joao Cancio Freitas and the Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Abel Guterres, to discuss the engagement of Australian universities with Timor-Leste and to consider mechanisms that could improve the coordination of Australian university activity in Timor-Leste.

This first meeting agreed for a scoping document to be prepared that maps the extent of Australian university engagement in Timor-Leste against the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan. This provided the basis for discussion at a Roundtable convened at Charles Darwin University in May 2012. Thirteen universities indicated an interest in the project and have since provided information for incorporation into the attached scoping document.

The Roundtable agreed three broad initiatives that have subsequently been endorsed by the Board of Universities Australia:

- I. Improved Communication**, including mapping Australian universities' current projects, the identification of gaps and alignment with Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan.

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# Timor-Leste – Flinders University Engagement Framework

Flinders University		Breadth of Engagement			
Depth of Engagement	Partner institution/s	Teaching and Learning	Academic professional development/ networks	Research and Knowledge Transfer	Professional and Government
	Charles Darwin University and the Government of Timor-Leste	<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <p>Flinders University and Charles Darwin University have co-initiated a collaborative partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste to support capacity building initiatives with focus on improving its Finance, Education, Environmental Management, Health and Governance with emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic expertise and in-country training of its government and institution departments.</li> <li>Funded tertiary studies at an undergraduate, postgraduate and research level.</li> </ul>	Academic professional development/ networks	Knowledge Creation and Transfer through Research	<p>Commercial Consultancy, Professional Training, Development Project</p> <p>Professional development courses targeting the co- area of Governance, Policy Development &amp; Enforcement.</p> <p>Support the professional development initiatives of the National Institute of Petroleum (NPC)</p> <p>Flinders University will co-ordinate the English Language and professional development program in collaboration with Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) and the Department of South Australia. The DPC is expected to provide an internship based short term training program.</p>
	Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance	<p><b>Ministry of Finance World Bank Scholars</b></p> <p>The Ministry has currently sent the majority of its staff and students to Flinders to study in areas of Accounting, Economics, Finance, Business Law and Taxation.</p>			

	<p>Intensive English Language Institute and Department of Premiers and Cabinet (South Australia)</p>	<p>Flinders University will co-ordinate the English Language and professional development program in collaboration with Intensive English Language Institute (IEL) and the Department of Premiers and Cabinet (DPC) of South Australia. The DPC is expected to provide an internship based short term training program.</p>			
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# Timor-Leste – Griffith University Engagement Framework

Griffith University		Breadth of Engagement			
Depth of Engagement	Partner institution/s	Teaching and Learning	Academic professional development/ networks	Research and Knowledge Transfer	Professional and Government
		State Secretariat of Culture and Ministry of Education	Teaching and Learning	Academic professional development/ networks	Knowledge Creation and Transfer through Research



# Timor-Leste – Monash University Engagement Framework

Monash University		Breadth of Engagement		
		Partner institution/s	Teaching and Learning	Research and Knowledge Transfer
Depth of Engagement		Academic professional development/ networks	Knowledge Creation and Transfer through Research	Professional and Government
	<p>UNTL Faculty Business and Economics</p>	Teaching and Learning		<p>Commercial Consultancy, Professional Training, Development Project</p> <p>Coffee, Poverty and Economic Development in Timor-Leste, the Faculty of Business and Economics, researchers are examining economic and social impacts of the coffee industry in Timor-Leste coffee growing districts, at both the individual and community level. The research team are using combined economic and GIS capability to examine the structural and spatial factors that affect the capacity of coffee growing workers to move out of poverty and to manage natural resource and environmental threats.</p>
	National Directorate of Culture		'Sacred Cloth in Timor-Leste Today' As part of a collaborative project with the National Directorate of Culture (NDC), Ministry of Education, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL) research in the Faculty of Arts is investigating the contemporary significance of iconographic traditional textiles. The research on sets out to document the life of the artisans, their artefacts and the customary practices surrounding weaving.	















































































































