



UNEST Team

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The UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) is an integrated initiative from the UNDP Support to the Timorese Electoral Cycle Project and the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). With more than 30 national and international professionals, UNEST provides the Timor-Leste Electoral Management Bodies, CNE and STAE, with advisory and support in the areas of Electoral Planning, Legal, Logistics, Information Technology and Data Base, Civic and Voter Education, Public Information, Management, Finance, Administration and Graphic Design.

Electoral Assistance Donor coordination meeting and UNDP Project Steering Committee

STAE, CNE and UNEST conducted a donor coordination meeting and UNDP Project Steering Committee on the 15 March in STAE. The Meeting was co-chaired by the Director of STAE, Mr. Tomas Cabral, the Chairman of CNE, Mr. Faustino Cardoso and the UNDP Country Director, Ms. Mikiko Tanaka.

In the meeting participated representatives from: Embassy of Australia, Embassy of Brazil, Embassy of Japan, Embassy of Portugal, Irish Aid, AusAID, Spanish AECID, SIDA Sweden, NZAID, International Republican Institute and Asia Foundation.

The main objective was to evaluate the international assistance in the electoral area and explore future areas of support. The areas of intervention, identified for the period 2010 – 2012 are mainly the legal assistance through legal advisory to STAE and CNE; the strengthening of the management and administration systems to the EMBs and the continuation of support to the IT and voter database of STAE. Also, the UN intends to continue the support to the civic and voter education; institutional capacity development through study tours and electoral observation missions and a comprehensive capacity development program for the political parties designed and implemented through trainings, workshops, round-tables and resource centers.



Photo: Rodrigo Elias /UNEST



Thematic Seminar on Elections, Violence & Conflict Prevention in Barcelona

UNEST advisers Martinho Chachua and Albertina Piterbarg participated in the thematic seminar on “Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention” that took place in Barcelona, Spain from the 22 to the 26 March 2010. The seminar was an initiative of the EU-UNDP Joint Task Force and International IDEA, in collaboration with their partners in the Training For Development initiative, the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) and the Barcelona International Peace Resource Center.



Photos: Karen Kelleber/UNEST

The objective of the seminar was to look into ways in which electoral assistance programmes and projects can take on board means for preventing the escalation of election-related violence and conflict throughout the electoral cycle. It also aimed at identifying strategic approaches that may help to anticipate and prevent violence and conflicts typically accompanying electoral processes and outline options and tools for programming design.

The initiative targeted EC and UNDP staff, staff of regional and international organizations working in the field of electoral assistance as well as members of Electoral Management Bodies. The 30 participants were selected on the basis of their involvement in electoral violence and election-related conflict prevention/management issues.

In order to maximize the learning outcomes and the exchange of experience the topics of workshop were organized into a five day agenda, with a special focus on:

- EC and UNDP policy and strategic frameworks for electoral assistance and conflict prevention: differences and similarities;
- The Electoral Cycle Approach: concept, entry points and linkages with conflict prevention;
- Key stakeholders in electoral processes and election-related violence: which capacities and mechanisms to be developed?;
- Electoral assistance programming and dynamics: how to mitigate electoral violence;
- Mainstreaming conflict prevention in programming on electoral assistance projects within the broader context of democracy, governance, human rights, gender and poverty reduction.

For more information: www.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org



Photo: Rodrigo Elias /UNEST



Photo: CNE archive



Photo: Andres del Castillo/UNEST



Photo: Bernardo Cardoso/UNEST

UNEST provides internet connection to STAE

On April 16, UNEST through the UNDP Support to the Timorese Electoral Cycle (UNEST) provided an Internet connection and the relevant equipment to be used in the STAE HQ in Caicoli, Dili. The objective of installing this connection is to ensure that the IT equipment, such as computers and laptops, are updated and to allow advisers and counterparts to share information with other relevant parties.

“Today the internet is a very important tool of work. With this new internet connection, STAE is better able to respond more easily and quickly to major challenges, especially in the areas of communication and updating of databases on a national level”, said Mr. Andres del Castillo, UNEST Chief Technical Advisor.

CNE training for Public Servants

On the 25 and 26 March, CNE trained 42 public servants from Aileu, Baucau, Covalima, Viqueque and Dili. The training sessions took place in Centro de Formação Profissional of Becora (SENAI), Dili.

The training program had 7 different themes: Administrative Management I and II; Civil Service; Human Resources Management and Finance; Elections and Municipalization in Timor-Leste; CNE Strategic Plan for 2010 and Media Information – Basics.

The event counted with the participation of Jose Levi, UNEST Administrative adviser for CNE and Bernardo Cardoso, UNEST Senior Trainer for Political Parties as trainers and ended with the speech of Mr. Olavio da Costa Almeida, General Secretariat Director of CNE.

Lectures at the National University of Timor-Leste

As part of the Democratic Governance Lectures in National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL), in Dili, Mr. Dan Radulescu, UNEST Project Manager and Ms. Albertina Piterbarg, UNEST Civic Education adviser to CNE gave very informative lectures on the 25 March and 08 April respectively.

The lecture "Political Participation" gave an insight on some political concepts such as Political Culture, Political Socialization, and Political Behavior. The analysis raised many questions among the students, and motivated an interested dialogue.

The main objective of the lecture "Introduction to the Civic Education", presented by Ms. Piterbarg, was to present the basic concepts on Civic Education and the implementation of Civic Education Programs in Timor-Leste.

UNEST National staff and their Experiences

Project Officer (UNDP): Georgete Gomes



Photo: Til Subba /UNEST

and undertake day-to-day management of the project office.

I joined UNDP Support to Timorese Electoral Cycle Project in 5 May 2008 as a Project Officer. My daily activities at UNEST HQ are maintaining the oversight of the project finances using the Atlas program, processing the payment, providing technical support on the recruitment process

It is indeed required for me to understand the rules and regulation of UNDP and liaising with UNDP country office to have the work done on time bound. However, in order to make it happened, I would not able to do it alone without the great support and genuine guidance from my CTA and Project Manager who are really empowering the national staff to be able to work in professional manner and committed to make success of the project.

UNEST GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- To enhance capacity of the National Electoral Management Bodies (STAE and CNE) to fulfill their administrative and supervisory mandates and organize and conduct free and fair elections.
- To support electoral processes and the revision of the legal framework.
- To enhance participation and credible elections.
- To assist and support in the development of the political parties capacity.
- To support the implementation of comprehensive public awareness strategy focused on civic and voter education.
- To promote gender equality and empowerment in the electoral processes.

As a national staff, I am proud to be part of the project mission which led me to understand the whole picture of UNDP support to the Timorese electoral cycle project as an important element in building a democratic state of Timor Leste through a periodic election event.

Senior Translator (UNMIT): Samuel Soares

I have been working with the UN Mission in Timor Leste of back and forth since 1999. Upon finishing my Bachelor Degree in Political and Social Sciences, majoring on International Relations in Indonesia. I joined with UNMIT as National Associate for Senior Translator and Interpreter in September 2009 and deployed at UNEST.

Speaking about election, I would like to start by quoting the former US President Abraham Lincoln said "It's the ballot that stronger than the bullet." It is really similarly with the event led to referendum organized by United Nations through UNAMET in 1999.

In day-to day business, I am providing translation to all electoral related documents from Tetum-English, Portuguese-and Bahasa. Meanwhile, in the area of interpretation, there were huge action have been taken upon joined the mission and work in the election project.

Through this periodic democratic election, which had been and will continue to be implemented in future will deepen the roots of democracy and building a deep understanding among Timorese.



Photo: Samuel Soares /UNEST