



Fundasaun Alola co-ordinates training in understanding the justice system in 7 Districts

Fundasaun Alola working together with the NGO “**Judicial System Monitoring Program**” established a series of trainings for women’s group in Ainaro, Aileu, Dili/Atauro, Bobonaro, Manufahi, Oecusse and Covalima Districts, to improve the capacity of the community in regard to the judicial system.

The objective of this program is to improve community counseling about the judicial system (Law) in Timor-Leste and how to protect victims of Gender Based Violence.

The Coordinator of Community Development, Cecilia da Fonseca said: “In the districts, many people do not have access to information about the judicial system, therefore they do not know how to deal with Gender Based Violence when it happens in their lives. Through this training, they learnt a process for referring the victims of Gender Based Violence according to the law of Timor-Leste”.

She said that this training is the continuation of the activities undertaken last year, in Baucau, Ermera, Liquiça, Lospalos, Manatuto and Viqueque districts, and this year the

training will be established again in the districts remaining. This training include local authorities like, the District Administrator, the District leader, the Sub-District leader, Police, Gender Focal Point, and women groups.



All participants are seriously looking at the figures and listening to the explanations about how to refer victims who have faced violence.

International and National artists prepare Rosa Muki Bonaparte Garden



International and National Artists placing stones to build the tree that will paint with different color to show women’s creativity in the garden of Rosa Muki Bonaparte, Rua Mandarin, Motael

Timorese artist Bety Reis said that the name **Rosa Muki Bonaparte** is symbolic of the Timorese women who struggled for the emancipation and the freedom of Timor-Leste during the war. “ Before the beginning of the conference, together we cleaned and prepared the Rosa Muki Bonaparte Garden, we staked the different trees that we would paint with the figure of women to indicate that women are as creative as men.”

Bety explained that, after they prepared the garden, they made paths for the garden from stones that they got from the beach. When the conference participants visited the garden they wrote their names on the stones. “We put the stones there to make the garden more beautiful, some of the stones already have names on them some stones are not named, therefore we ask that whoever passes that way, to write down their names”.

An International artist from Angola, Marcela Costa said that she was very happy that they could work together with Timorese artists to prepare the Rosa Muki Bonaparte Garden, and show images of Timorese women that really have courage and daring to lead other women from the darkness into the light, from illiteracy to knowing how to write and to prepare for political life to struggle for freedom. By painting the trees with different colors women expressed their creative ideas.

Before they prepared the garden, they visited the Districts of Timor-Leste to see the reality of Timorese women’s lives. They showed a short film titled; “Contradiction” and used singing, drama and painting to express women’s ideas.

Women as creative agents for peace building through the life of International and National artists, preparing the Rosa Muki Bonaparte Garden in Rua Mandarin, Motael, Timor-Leste as part of the 2nd International Women for Peace Conference in Timor-Leste.

Who is Fundasaun Alola? Alola was founded in 2002 dedicated to empowering women through improved health, education, leadership and employment opportunities. Established as a national NGO, Alola is governed by a board of management. Chair: Kirsty Sword Gusmao. Leadership Team: CEO: Anne Finch. Program Managers: MCH - Maria Immaculada Guterres; Advocacy - Alita Verdial; Education: vacant; Economic Development: Cecilia Fonseca. Operations Manager- Monica Guterres

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2nd International Women for Peace Conference



Singing the National Anthem to open the 2nd International Women for Peace Conference in Timor-Leste are from the right: Minister of Justice, H.E Lucia Lobato, the Chairperson of Alola Foundation, Sra Kirsty Sword Gusmao, Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, Sra Idelta Rodriques and the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr Athul Khare with other conference participants.

The 2nd International Women for Peace conference was held in Timor-Leste on March 5-6 2009. The Conference was organized as a joint venture by the major women’s organizations in Timor, and funded by the Norwegian Embassy, through its office in Timor Leste. The 1st Women for Peace Conference was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2007, and this recent event followed on from the themes and achievements of the initial gathering.

The event attracted 500 participants, 380 from Timor-Leste and 120 from overseas. The international participants came from Indonesia, Vietnam, Australia, Fiji, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Ireland, Germany, USA, Sweden, Spain, Canada, Portugal, Venezuela, UK, Norway and Papua New Guinea.

The conference was opened by the Prime Minister, Sr Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao and was attended by members of the Government of Timor-Leste, UN representatives, and Bishop Gunnar Stålsett from Norway

Speakers were drawn from government and civil society in Timor, and keynote addresses were delivered by women from Fiji, Vietnam, Australia, and Aceh.

The theme of the conference was women as creative agents for peace building.

The speakers spoke about the struggles women face the participation of women in development and peace building in Timor-Leste and the world. Although there are differences of color of skin, language, nationality and place, the struggles that women face such as sexual violence and torture are almost the same every where.

Soraya Kamaruzzaman from Indonesia and Koila Olsson from Fiji said with tears, the struggles that the Timorese women face, we also face in our nations. For example; the experiences women faced during the Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste, were also faced by women in Aceh and Papua in Indonesia”. The question was asked, “How can the Government of Timor-Leste ensure that the law promotes equality for women”.

The following recommendations came out of the two day conference:

1. Investigate and prosecute crimes committed during 1999 and during the Indonesian occupation;
2. Document and archive the atrocities of violence against women during the occupation in 1999;
3. Ensure reform that takes account of the need for reparation for victims, for judicial, medical and psycho – social support, for social protection, education and technical development to improve life skills and economic opportunities;
4. Resolve gender based and domestic violence through the criminal code and the domestic violence law and also establish finance resources for the implementation of the law;
5. Adopt responses that are appropriate for victims of gender based and domestic violence;
6. Eliminate articles in the law that discriminate against women.



Coordinator of the 2nd International Women for Peace Conference, Filomena dos Reis, reading the recommendations of the two day conferences.

Galuh Wandita in her speech expressed the hope that the necessary reparation is made to restore the victim’s dignity and to ensure that the communities are strong and able to deal with the situation of women in the community. Timorese culture, institutions and mediation processes can be used to establish the facts; identify the victims and people who have been wronged; help to decide what compensation can be given people who have been wronged in the years to come; and support the communities ability to reconcile and to build peace.

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The conference noted that a good way to prevent repetition is to not allow impunity for gender based crime, crime against humanity and war crimes. Crimes related to war and conflict need to be dealt with in line with national and international law. These reforms become practical when the victims and those who have been wronged understand their rights to reparation, legal, medical, psychological support, social protection, education and capacity building and to realize their dream for life and economic opportunity.



All participants light candles, as they sing "Dame-dame", a song prepared by Brazilian, Angolan and Timorese artists.

All the participants from the districts, NGOs and students really enjoyed this conference and have increased their capacity and their understanding about women's development.

The **Declaration** of this conference asked all nations to take action to implement Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council confirming that women have an important responsibility in the prevention and resolving of conflict, peace negotiation, peace building, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Women's participation in peace building, gives a new perspective to the peace building process and gives it a higher value. With transparency they can establish their own negotiations and peace agreements. This conference recognizes the poor and the desperate, those whose human rights have been denied and wishes to acknowledge those rights and our belief that our talents and aspirations, cultural and religion differences can improve the violent conflicts that affect women, children, family and community's peace and tranquility.



Prosecutor General, Ana Pessoa, Sister Guihermina, (Canossian Sisters), Secretary of State for Natural Resources, Alfredo Pires, Reverend Maria Gomes together with the participants listen to the speakers at the 2nd International Women's Peace Conference in Timor-Leste.

In this conference, with one voice participants endorsed peace building and sustainable development for the nation; and that women have an important role to play in the community to mobilize moral, social, and financial support for women; and to ensure space for women and a gender perspective in the development and peace building process.

This conference asks the students and the Government to pay particular attention to how to resolve tension before it becomes active conflict.

Conflict can be prevented by a Government that is responsive and open to the needs of the country. The Government can prevent conflict and provide freedom for all participants, by tolerant and inclusive democratic governance, by promoting social, economic, political and cultural development that includes all people so that the people can trust in security, and be able to meet their needs.

The President of the Internal Resources Tribunal, Maria Natercia Gusmão said in this conference that she really enjoyed it and "I feel happy because many of the women participated in this conference with an enthusiasm to share their opinion and they now know more about women's participation in the nation's development".



15 students participated in the Women for Peace Conference

The Education Team of Alola conducted "Girls Conferences" for senior high school students throughout February in 4 Districts: Dili, Ainaro, Baucau and Viqueque. Of the participants at each conference, 2 of the students were selected and prepared to participate in the 2nd International Women for Peace Conference.

The Coordinator of the Girls Conference Training, Maria Imaculada said that 15 students participated in the 2nd International Women for Peace Conference. The students came from São Jose Dili, School, Canossa Comoro School, 4 De Dezembro Secondary School of Balide, Secondary School of Baucau and Secondary School of Ossu. The girls were selected because they were enthusiastic in giving their ideas, they were creative and intelligent, and were willing to ask questions and would be able to adapt to the conference situation.

A student of Canossa Pre-Secondary School, **Elisi Angela Jose dos Santos Ferreira** said that she was very happy to have this opportunity to participate in the conference because through this conference she can improve her capacity in regard to women's rights and women's participation in the nation's development.



Students are happy to listen to the explanation about women's voices in politics and in decision making.

Another student from Catholic Pre-Secondary School of Ainaro District, **Novianala da Costa** said: "I am very happy to be a participant of this conference, and I have learned many things about women's life, women rights, in Timor-Leste and in the other places that the many participants have come from to share their experiences about situations that women face". Student of Pre-Secondary School of Baucau, **Natercia Maria Soares Fernandes** said: "Through this conference I have learn about women's rights and how to improve women's dignity and the life that women face. Because as a student I don't know very much about women.

Alola Esperansa produced bags for Women for Peace Conference



Mena Reis as the coordinator of the conference is showing the bags that Alola produced for the Women for Peace Conference helped by Elisita Roserio.

Alola Esperansa, the handcrafts and textiles business operated by Alola in support of its development programs, produced 200 bags for the conference. Inside the bags there were books, pen, agenda and information for all participants in the 2nd International Women for Peace Conference in Timor-Leste.

Production Manager of Alola Esperansa Taibessi, Ofelia Neves Napoleão said they received the order for the bags 2 months before the conference. It was an idea of the facilitators and the bags were produced according to the model that they received.

She said that Alola Esperansa is a business group, and when other divisions in Fundasaun Alola need something related to handicrafts, they place an order with Alola Esperansa and we produce it.

We market our products more widely in the future but are starting with orders from families and the community. We will be looking for a way to cooperate with the Government so that if foreigners are looking for bags or good quality Timor Tais, we can make them according to the model that require.

We also have a shop, The Alola Shop, at the Fundasaun Alola premises in Mercado Lama, and at the Dili International Airport. Many Australians request Timor Tais, both big and small, bags, and other items. Some are sold in the Museum and Gallery of the Northern Territory Shop. We hope that we will find more markets in our country and we will collaborate with the Timor-Leste Government to produce tais and make other items according to our capacity.