TRI-LATERAL UNIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE:
TIMOR-LESTE, EAST INDONESIA AND NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN INTEGRATED SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

4-6 May 2014
The inaugural tri-lateral University Roundtable on Sub-Regional Development aimed to facilitate the development of collaborative capacity building in Timor-Leste, East Indonesia and Northern Australia. The Roundtable initiated and explored the opportunity for ongoing engagement and the identification of common interests between the sub-regional universities. Central themes of inclusive development and community engagement, sustainable development, human capacity development and people to people connectivity framed the agenda.

The Roundtable emerged from the Bali 2012 discussions between the Prime Ministers of Timor-Leste and Australia and the President of Indonesia, and in recognition that increased opportunities for dialogue and cooperation will enhance the stability and prosperity of the region and facilitate the promotion of active and responsible citizenship.

Well-established links between the governments of Timor-Leste, Indonesia, and the Northern Territory already facilitate tri-lateral cooperation on issues of shared concern, including sustainable communities and security challenges, infrastructure development, resource management, trade relations, and investment in human capital through increased access to education and vocational training.

Universities play an increasingly important role in the development of nations as many countries around the world transition to knowledge-based economies. Universities are also important contributors to the development of young leaders. The Roundtable participants share the view that universities have the potential to make a transformative contribution to regional economic development and social change.

Research from Australia’s Lowy Institute points to the importance of strong social and cultural ties between countries in the sub-region that will promote an environment that is stable, democratic and conducive to economic participation and prosperity.
PARTICIPANTS

The Roundtable involved senior university leadership from the sub-region and representatives from the government of Timor-Leste (refer contact list Schedule 1). Participant universities (East to West) included:

- Charles Darwin University (CDU)
- Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosae (UNTL)
- Dili Institute of Technology (DIT)
- Universitas Nusa Cendana
- Universitas Mataram
- Universitas Udayana
- Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana
- Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)

The Rector of Universitas Hasanuddin, Professor Dr Dwia Aries Tina Pulubuhu MA, was invited but extended an apology as she had only commenced her position as Rector during the week prior to the Roundtable.

From Timor Leste representatives from the Institute of Business, Universidade Dili and Universidade Oriental Timor Lorosae also participated.

Victoria University (VU) Australia, a university with long-standing commitment to Timor-Leste, was represented by an observer, Dr Helen Hill.

Invited student observers and alumni were critical to the discussions and to framing future agendas.

PROGRAM

**Sunday 4 May 2014 – WELCOME DINNER**
Delegate Welcome Dinner hosted by the Government of Timor-Leste and UNTL

**Monday 5 May 2014 - DAY ONE**

**Session 1**
Official Opening

Address by the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

**Session 2**
Scene Setting
Welcome address by the Timor-Leste Minister of Education Bendito dos Santos Freitas.

‘T.I.A. Growth Triangle: Sub-Regional Economic Integrated Development’
Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Australia
Joao Mendes Gonçalves
Head of Mission Unit TIA-GT

‘Perspectives on the Nature and Challenges of Tri-Lateral Collaboration’
Professor Dennis Shoesmith, Charles Darwin University
Rector Presentations on the Role of their University in Sub-Regional Economic Development

(East-West)

Professor Sharon Bell    Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT
Professor Aurélio Guterres   National University of Timor-Leste
Dr. Manuel Florencio Vong  Dili Institute of Technology, Dili
Professor Fred Benu    Universitas Nusa Cendana, Kupang
Professor Suwardji   Universitas Mataram, Lombok
Professor Dr Ketut Suastika Universitas Udayana, Denpassar, Bali
Professor John A Titaley Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana, Salatiga, Central Java
Professor Ir Dwikorita Karnawati Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Java

Welcome Reception hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Mr Peter Doyle.

Tuesday 6 May 2014 - DAY TWO

Session 1

His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão presented the Roundtable with the development challenge that:

‘…no country, no community, no island be left behind.’

What is the role of universities in this development agenda?

Working Groups to Identify Key Opportunities and Challenges based on the emergent themes from Day One:

1. **Alumni responses** to ensure that we the capture diverse experience of future leaders
2. **Inclusive development** and community engagement: framing evidence based development; economic opportunity linked to inclusive development; recognition and respect for Indigenous and local knowledges
3. **Sustainable Development**: management of natural resources; community resilience and leadership; disaster and risk management
4. **Human capacity development**: participation and success in Education; Health and Well-Being
5. **People to people connectivity**: language policy; networks; sustained relationships.
Key Issues Arising from Working Groups

Alumni Responses to DAY ONE Presentations

Chair Eng. Liborio Pereira, President of the Public Service Commission Timor-Leste

• It is essential that there is room for the voices/perspectives of the younger generation as responsible citizens
• Educators have a crucial leadership role
• Alumni are important disseminators and translators of knowledge for the benefit of the community
• We need to recognise the importance of vocational training
• Local consultation and respect for traditional knowledge are key to success in development processes
• Networking and internships could be roles that the Roundtable facilitates.

Inclusive Development

• Inequality in development has significant impact and demands affirmative action programs
• Improved tertiary education outcomes and resourcing are key
• The Roundtable could develop a community of scholars/network of lecturers to share knowledge and skills
• We should remain mindful of the importance of Early Childhood educational opportunities and learning.

Sustainable Development

• The goal is to meet basic needs and alleviate poverty
• Universities are a distributed network meeting local needs
• Capacity development of young leaders is a key responsibility
• Development should be premised on social justice.

Human Capacity Development

• Language policy and implementation is a key issue and impacts the quality of teaching, education and access to resources
• The Roundtable could facilitate resource sharing, especially access to specialist facilities
• Development of a National Library in Timor Leste is a key issue.

People to People Connectivity (Student Group)

• Lack of basic infrastructure and access to education in rural areas
• There is the potential for language/exchange studies to enhance cross-cultural understanding
• There is a need to strengthen informal and traditional (family/community) education as well as formal education
• Enduring gender inequality should be acknowledged
• Young people evidence changing patterns of behaviour and expectations
• Increase community service for students through agricultural and community service programs.
Session 2
Report back and identification of priorities for collaboration and work plan for second Roundtable (Darwin 2015)

- Develop frameworks that draw on diverse knowledge traditions and are inclusive of local and Indigenous knowledges
- Create improved mechanisms for sharing resources: curriculum design; library; educational and research resources; and human resources; internet
- Create and support a sub-regional alumni network as a valuable resource with a translational role in their local context
- Form a Sub-Regional Community of Scholars to share expertise and knowledge through staff mobility
- Enhance the mobility of students to engage in community service programs to improve education for regional citizenship and social justice and to develop the capacity of young leaders.

The second Roundtable to be hosted by Charles Darwin University in 2015 will focus on the broad theme:


Representatives at the first Roundtable will be invited to form a reference group to inform the planning of the second Roundtable.

Concluding Dinner hosted by Professor Aurélio Guterres National University of Timor-Leste with the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation: José Luís Guterres in attendance.

At the dinner a Memorandum of Understanding for the Indonesia-Timor Leste-Australia Academic Partnership among Members of the Indonesia-Timor Leste-Australia Consortium was signed. (Attachment 1) The MOU confirms a 5 year commitment to:

1. Exchanges of students and staff
2. Joint research, including seminars, conferences, and public lectures
3. Establishment of joint teaching programs
4. Joint quality assurance and benchmarking
5. Other projects for mutual benefit that are agreed upon by both parties of the Consortium members.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE-AUSTRALIA ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP
AMONG
MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE-AUSTRALIA CONSORTIUM

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into this 6th of May 2014, by and between the following members of the INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE-AUSTRALIA CONSORTIUM referred to as:

UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA, with its official address at Bulaksumur, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia, and represented herein by Prof. Dr. Dwikorita Karnawati, Vice Rector for Cooperation and Alumni

UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN SATYA WACANA, with its official address at Jalan Diponegoro, Salatiga, Central Jawa, Indonesia, and represented herein by Professor John A. Titailey, Rector

UNIVERSITAS MATAARAM, with its official address at Jalan Majapahit No. 62, Mataram 83121, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, and represented herein by Prof. Ir. Suwardji, Ph.D, Vice Rector for Collaboration Affairs

UNIVERSITAS NUSA CENDANA with its official address at Jalan Adi Sucipto, Penfui-Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, and represented herein by Prof. Dr. Fred Benu, Rector;

UNIVERSITAS UDAYANA, with its official address at Jalan Kampus Udayana, and represented herein by Prof. Dr. Ketut Suastika, Rector

Page 1 of 4
DILI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, with its official address at Rua DIT, Aimutin, Dili, Timor Leste, and represented herein by Ir. Estanislau S. Saldanha, M Tech., Rector.

INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS, with its official address at Praia dos Coqueiros, Pertamina, Dili, Timor Leste, and represented herein by Augusto da C. Soares, SE., MM, Rector;

UNIVERSIDADE NACIONAL TIMOR LOROSA'E, with its official address at Av. Cidade de Lisboa, Dili, Timor Leste, and represented herein by Prof. Dr. Aurelio Guterres;

UNIVERSIDADE DILI, with its official address at Bispo de Madeiros, Mascarenhas, Dili, Timor Leste, and represented herein by Antonio Cardoso C. Machado, S.Pd., MM, Rector;

UNIVERSIDADE ORIENTAL TIMOR LOROSA'E, with its official address at Liberdade de Imprensa, Becora, Cristo Rei, Timor Leste, and represented herein by Dr. Roberto Seixas Miranda Jeronimo, Rector;

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY, with its official address at (Ellengowan Drive, Darwin, Northern Territory, 0909, Australia), and represented herein by Prof. Sharon Bell, Deputy Vice Chancellor;

WHEREAS, INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE-AUSTRALIA CONSORTIUM members have complementary objectives and a mutual desire to collaborate in a number of areas to pursue common education, training, and research objectives; and

WHEREAS, the members recognize the comparative advantage of joining forces to improve the quality of education, research, and community service of related fields;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the members hereto have agreed to cooperate in the areas as follows:

1. Exchanges of students and staff
2. Joint research, including seminar, conferences, and public lectures.
3. Development of graduate level research training opportunities
4. Establishment of joint teaching programs
5. Joint quality assurance and benchmarking
6. Other projects for mutual benefit that are agreed upon by both parties of the Consortium members

This Memorandum shall remain in force for a period of 5 years from the date of signing by the authorized representatives of the Consortium members hereto and may not be modified except upon mutual written agreement of the Members herein. The agreement may be extended after a review of the activities is conducted by INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE-AUSTRALIA CONSORTIUM and after mutual consent has been given by all Members in this agreement. This MOU may be terminated by any Member by giving at least six months notice to the other Members in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Members hereunto have affixed their signature this 6th of May, 2014.
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA
BY: 
Prof. Dr. Dwikorita Karnawati,
Vice Rector for Cooperation and Alumni

UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN SATYA
WACANA
BY: 
Professor John A. Titaely,
Rector

UNIVERSITAS MATARAM
BY: 
Prof. Ir. Suwardji, Ph.D,
Vice Rector for Collaboration
Affairs

UNIVERSITAS NUSA CENDANA
BY: 
Prof. Dr. Fred Benu,
Rector

UNIVERSITAS UDAYANA
BY: 
Prof. Dr. Ketut Suastika,
Rector

DILI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BY: 
Ir. Estanislau S. Saldanha, MTech,
Rector

INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS
BY 
Augusto da C Soares, SE.,MM,
Rector

UNIVERSIDADE NACIONAL
TIMOR LOROSA'E
BY: 
Prof. Dr. Aurelio Guterres
Rector

Page 3 of 4
UNIVERSIDADE DILI
BY:

Antonio Cardoso C. Machado,
S.Pd., MM,
Rector

UNIVERSIDADE ORIENTAL
TIMOR-LOROSA'E
BY:

Dr. Roberto Seixas Miranda Jeronimo,
Rector

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY
BY

Prof. Sharon Bell,
Deputy Vice Chancellor