



The Maritime Boundary Office is the Secretariat for the Council for the Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, which is responsible for the negotiation of permanent maritime boundaries with Indonesia and Australia.

## ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop: Dispute Resolution and Law of the Sea, Dili, 27 – 28 February 2020

On 27-28 February 2020, Timor-Leste, Malaysia and Australia co-chaired the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Dispute Resolution and the Law of the Sea. The Workshop was held in Dili at the Ministry of Finance. The Maritime Boundary Office participated in the organising committee and worked closely with Timor-Leste's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as well as with the other two co-chairs in putting this workshop together.

The Workshop drew participants with academic and practitioner experience in the Law of the Sea providing both a regional and international perspective. The forum examined a range of past cases with a focus on the conciliation between Timor-Leste and Australia as a recent case of success of a dispute resolution.

In his keynote address, Chief Negotiator, H.E. Xanana Gusmão said, "The UNCLOS conciliation shows the promise of the international system and the rule-based order. That is why this Forum is so important – it brings together people who can defend the international system and who understand the importance of the law of the sea." He also appealed for "effective ocean

governance through the law of the sea is critical to protect our future and promote global peace and security."

H.E. Minister Agio Pereira, who was Timor-Leste's Agent in the conciliation process, spoke of the process from Timor-Leste's perspective. Elizabeth Expoto, CEO of the Maritime Boundary Office, shared her own experience in establishing and leading the office. She discussed how maritime boundary delimitation is a unique public policy area and said, "It is a matter of the permanent sovereignty of your nation. And so, the first step is to make sure you have a united approach. Before you consider the dispute resolution mechanisms you have available, you first need a united team that can come together and agree on a way forward."

As a strong advocate of the international rules-based order, Dr. José Ramos-Horta in his closing remarks called "for states to use international and/or regional mechanisms and cooperation, to resolve disputes in accordance with international law."

For speeches please visit [www.gfm.tl](http://www.gfm.tl)

*ARF speakers,  
panelists and participants,  
Ministry of Finance, Dili,  
27 February 2020*



## Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum, Manado, Indonesia, 1 November 2019

“ I am committed to respect and understand the local culture and protect natural heritage in the destination area. ”

– Ecotourism pledge by the AIS representatives.

The forum addressed four critical topics relevant to this pledge: the blue economy, climate change, marine plastic debris and good maritime governance. It was agreed that the fundamental step to move forward is to closely work together based on mutual respect. A key pledge made by the representatives was to respect the local knowledge and ownership.

Timor-Leste, with the other 24 AIS, participated in the Forum. Timor-Leste was represented by the Chief Negotiator, H.E. Xanana Gusmão and Ambassador Roberto Soares.

## The 12th Bali Democratic Forum: Democracy and Inclusivity, 5-6 December 2019

The forum was established in 2008 to “promote and foster progressive democratic values in the Asia Pacific region”, said Minister Retno Marsudi in her opening remarks. It was built upon the foundation of equality, mutual understanding and respect. In the two-day discussions, women’s contribution to decision making was considered as one of the fundamental pillars in democracy.

Over 80 countries were represented including Timor-Leste.

## 2nd ARF Workshop on Implementing UNCLOS and other International Instruments to Address Emerging Maritime Issues, Hanoi, 13 -14 November 2019

The Maritime Boundary Office was invited to attend this workshop together with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Hanoi, Vietnam. The forum focused on the existing maritime disputes in the region. It also looked into measures to efficiently implement UNCLOS and other international instruments to tackle these existing maritime challenges, including sovereign disputes, delimitation of maritime boundaries, and various transboundary issues such as sea law enforcement, maritime pollution, climate change, as well as terrorism and piracy.



ARF participants, Hanoi, Vietnam, 14 November 2019



## How Healthy is the Ocean's Constitution? 25 Years of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Conference, Hamburg, Germany, 17 – 18 October 2019

In celebrating the 25th Anniversary of UNCLOS, Chief Negotiator, H.E. Xanana Gusmão was invited to deliver a keynote address at the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany on 17 October 2019. The conference was the time for leading experts, policy makers and practitioners to reflect on what UNCLOS had achieved for the last 25 years since it came into force.

The Chief Negotiator discussed the importance of UNCLOS for small island States and the success story of the conciliation between Timor-Leste and Australia. He said, "I hope this panel and this conference will see our success story not as a reason to celebrate, but more as a reason to take action. Through the example of what we accomplished with Australia, we have provided proof that the rules-based architecture can still help achieve fairness, equity and more essentially, sovereignty."

David Bosco of Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies, Indiana University, concluded the conference with Timor's story: "Timor's success example brings hope. Hope that together we can peacefully and swiftly resolve similar challenges worldwide and create certainty for governance of the ocean. Timor's example serves as a reminder that through UNCLOS we achieve things that are matter to real people."

The organizers were the Indiana University's Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, Universität Hamburg and the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea. <https://hls.indiana.edu/unclos/index.html>

The Chief Negotiator and his delegation also took this opportunity to have a strategic meeting beforehand, on 14 – 15 October, with the international lawyers on our legal team. In this meeting the process to achieve a maritime boundary with Indonesia was discussed.

## Timor-Leste Oil and Gas Summit, Dili, 3-4 October 2019

With endorsement from ANPM, IN-VR Oil & Gas, an UK-based company, organised the first ever international Oil and Gas Summit in Timor-Leste.

The summit provided the opportunity for Timor-Leste to engage with participants in the industry, and to talk to potential investors. The two-day event comprised of representatives from 16 countries and over 200 companies in the sector.

Government Special Representative for Petroleum and Chief Negotiator, H.E. Xanana Gusmão, affirmed that "The petroleum sector is a key pillar supporting the development of our country. Along with tourism and agriculture the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan designates petroleum as a strategic industry that will underpin our economic growth, job creation and our future progress as a successful and stable nation."

Timor-Leste's second summit is planned for 8 – 9 October 2020 in Dili. <https://www.timorleste-summit.com/>



Chief Negotiator at ITLOS, Hamburg, 17 October 2019

## Second Field Visit on Land Borders, RAEOA, 17 – 22 August 2019

The MBO led the 2nd field visit with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MNEC) and Ministry of Justice and full support from Unidade Polícia de Fronteira (UPF) and Falintil Força Defesa Timor-Leste (F-FDTL).

The Timor-Leste delegation was led by Ambassador Roberto Soares as Head of Technical Negotiation on the Land Boundary for TL-RI. The objectives of the 2nd field visit were to consider the delineation of the unresolved segments in Naktuka, continue surveying in the Haumeni-Ana and define the terminus points at Mota-Ain Batugede.

The Timor-Leste delegation successfully obtained relevant information and data from the field, which will be provided as input and recommendations for both leaders in determining a final decision on the boundary line.

Timor-Leste and Indonesia had signed agreed principles on the final settlement of land boundary on 22 July 2019. The two States held their 1st joint field survey in May the same year, to collect and document all relevant information on the two unresolved segments of the land border, namely, in the Noel Besi/Citrana and Bidjael Sunan-Oben areas.

## Organising Committee for the Celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Referendum (Popular Consultation) and the INTERFET Mission

The Government created an Organising Committee [OC] to organise the 20th Anniversary of the Popular Consultation (August 30) and the deployment of the INTERFET Mission (September 20). H. E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão was appointed as President of the OC. The OC included a Principal Advisor, Counsellors [6], a General Coordinator and Vice-Coordinators [6], the Secretariat, and smaller teams responsible for sections such as communication and public relations, transport, entertainment, and security [12].

The Secretariat supporting the OC included three Secretaries under the direction of the Coordinator. The CEO of the Maritime Boundary Office [MBO], Elizabeth Exposto, was appointed Coordinator of the Secretariat, and the MBO carried out the Secretariat's activities.

The Secretariat was responsible for:

- preparing the OC's terms of reference;
- promoting committee meetings and preparing the necessary documentation;
- drafting, responding and issuing all of the OC's institutional correspondence; and
- providing administrative and technical support to all twelve Sections.

The Secretariat organised approximately 15 general meetings and several meetings between the Sections. The Secretariat also distributed approximately 1,700 invitations nationwide and over 450 international invitations, with over 2,200 guests being invited.

Heads of State, including former Heads of State, from foreign governments, members of Timor-Leste's Government and National Parliament, and several other dignitaries participated in the ceremony. Among the international guests included the President of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic; the Prime Ministers of Australia, Guinea Bissau, and Vanuatu; the Vice Prime Minister of Cambodia; and the Representatives of the States of Indonesia, New Zealand, São Tomé e Príncipe, Cape Verde, Venezuela, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Equatorial Guinea, France and Singapore. Representatives of the diocese of Díli, Baucau, and Maliana took part in the ceremony. Representatives of the diplomatic corps from dozens of countries also participated, alongside other dignitaries.

The celebrations took place from July 1 to August 30 in all the municipalities of Timor-Leste. The OC promoted a set of traditional dance and music contests to preserve Timor-Leste's national culture and history and ensure both are passed on to future generations. The official celebrations took place on August 30 in Tasi Tolu.



President of the OC at one of the many meetings before the celebrations, Ministry of Finance, July 2019



Getting ready with the invitations to be distributed locally, MBO, August 2019



# Celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Referendum (Popular Consultation) and the INTERFET Mission – August 30

Timor-Leste and the Timorese struggled for 24 years for the country's independence. On May 5, 1999, the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal signed an Agreement, under the auspices of the United Nations, to conduct a Referendum that would allow, on August 30, the Timorese people to take to the ballot boxes to finally choose their future. On that day, thousands of East Timorese went to the polling stations to vote.

On September 4, 1999, the UNTAET Head of Mission, Ian Martin, announced "that the result of the vote was: 94,388 in favour and 344,580 against the proposed special autonomy". The Timorese voted overwhelmingly for independence, ending 24 years of occupation and suffering, and making August 30 a historic day for Timor-Leste.

Immediately after the results were announced, a wave of violence took place across the country. There was large-scale destruction of infrastructure, housing and public buildings, thousands of people were displaced, and thousands lost their lives. The United Nations Security Council approved the formation and deployment of a Peacekeeping Force, INTERFET, which arrived in Timor-Leste on September 20, 1999.

Timor-Leste is currently an independent, free and democratic country that has made remarkable progress in its development, following a difficult path. Timor-Leste has continued to promote democracy within the country and pursue its sustainable development.

To commemorate the twenty years since this historic day, the OC for the Celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Referendum (Popular Consultation) and the INTERFET Mission prepared a vast program of activities for August 30, including:

## Tasi Tolu Celebrations – August 30

The official ceremony celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Referendum (Popular Consultation) took place in Tasi Tolu. The ceremony hosted 2,200 guests across three tents, with a main and a secondary stage for performances from cultural groups.

Thousands of Timorese gathered throughout the afternoon to watch demonstrations of cultural activities, such as performances from musical and dance groups, as well as a sports and art award ceremony.

The official ceremony began with the National Anthem, and included an ecumenical prayer, performances from musical groups, a projection of images, a video message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a speech by H.E. the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and the decoration of individuals with the insignia of the Order of Timor-Leste. Several national and international artists, and traditional dance and music groups performed at the ceremony on behalf of Timor-Leste to give thanks to the international solidarity groups.



Pre-event concert, Tasi Tolu, 30 August 2019

## The official ceremony, Tasi Tolu, 30 August 2019



Ecumenical prayer from the religious leaders in Timor-Leste



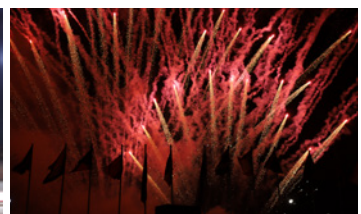
UN Sec-Gen delivers a video message: "Timor-Leste has inspired the world."



Order of Timor recipients



Dili Allstars sings 'Maubere Timor' with photos depicting Timor-Leste



Cultural performances and fireworks



## Exchange of Notes between Timor-Leste and Australia on the Ratification of the Maritime Boundary Treaty – August 30

The Prime Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Australia, Taur Matan Ruak and Scott Morrison, respectively, formalised the entry into force of the Maritime Boundary Treaty in the Timor Sea with a symbolic exchange of diplomatic notes. This ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Dili.

The exchange of diplomatic notes marked the conclusion of a long process that began three years ago when, in The Hague, the Conciliation Commission Timor-Leste requested under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) framework commenced.

H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão led the negotiation as Chief Negotiator for the Council of the Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries. The Treaty was concluded one year later in 2017, and was signed on March 6, 2018 in New York. Both countries ratified the Treaty in July 2019.

With this exchange of diplomatic notes, the Maritime Boundary Treaty automatically enters into force and the former joint oil exploration area is transferred to Timorese jurisdiction. In addition to being a matter of national sovereignty, the implementation of the Maritime Boundary Treaty represents a wealth of possibilities for economic and social development for the Timorese people.

The full text of the Treaty can be found here: [http://www.gfm.tl/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eng-Timor-Sea-Maritime-Boundary-Treaty\\_English.pdf](http://www.gfm.tl/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Eng-Timor-Sea-Maritime-Boundary-Treaty_English.pdf)



*Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak exchange the diplomatic notes, Palacio do Governo, Dili, 30 August 2019*

## Re-enactment of the Reading of the Results of the Referendum of August 30 – September 4

Twenty years after the dissemination of the results of the Referendum (Popular Consultation), Ian Martin, former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Timor-Leste, returned to the place where he had made this announcement in 1999, the current Hotel Timor, to re-enact the reading of the results. Ian Martin read exactly the same text at the exact same time, as he did on September 4, 1999.

Together with H.E. the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Taur Matan Ruak, who led the minute of silence, and the former President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Dr. José Ramos-Horta, Ian Martin also unveiled a plaque in memory of these events.

This event was followed by the March of Peace to the Dili Convention Centre, in which hundreds of people participated, including members of the Government and National Parliament, guests, young people, students and others.



*Re-enactment ceremony, Hotel Timor, Dili, 4 September 2019*



*Peace March, Dili, 4 September 2019*



# INTERFET Mission Celebrations – September 20

August 30, 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the historic vote for independence. The celebration of Timor-Leste's vote of independence would not be complete without recognising the role INTERFET played in helping to end the violence. On September 20, the OC organised several memorable events such as:

## Official ceremony celebrating the 20th anniversary of INTERFET

On the morning of September 20, 2019, an official ceremony took place at the Government Palace to mark the anniversary of the arrival of INTERFET in Timor-Leste. The President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, H.E. Dr. Francisco Guterres Lú Olo, chaired the ceremony.

The event featured speeches by H.E. the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Dr. Francisco Guterres Lú Olo, and the former INTERFET commander, Sir Peter Cosgrove. To attract Timor-Leste's youth and to speak for the younger generations of Timor-Leste, Ania of Atabae was invited to speak about her experiences with the struggle for independence and INTERFET.



Ania of Atabae (centre) after the ceremony, Palacio do Governo, 20 September 2019



Recognition plaque

In recognition of the dedication and sacrifices of soldiers and civilians seconded to INTERFET, Timor-Leste offered a plaque to honour the deployment of this Force. The President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the former INTERFET commander also laid a wreath in memory of all who lost their lives during the struggle for Timor-Leste's independence.

## Memory March for the FALINTIL and INTERFET veterans and a friendship lunch

After the official ceremony, the veterans were invited to participate in the March of Memory. During the March, participants walked from the Government Palace to the Dili Convention Centre in honour of the sacrifices of those who were sent to Timor-Leste as part of the INTERFET Mission.

Sir Cosgrove led the March with the original 1999 INTERFET flag, and accompanied by more than 250 veterans from FALINTIL and INTERFET. The veterans and other dignitaries were invited to participate in a friendship lunch at the Dili Convention Centre, chaired by H.E. Dr. José Ramos-Horta, former President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.



March in memory of the INTERFET, 20 September 2019



## Cosgrove / Xanana Cup – Friendly Soccer Shield

In a demonstration of the friendship between Timor-Leste and the INTERFET staff, on September 20, the veterans of FALINTIL and INTERFET and the national teams of the F-FDTL and the Australian Defence Force played a friendly soccer match vying for the Cosgrove / Xanana Cup.

Hundreds of visiting veterans joined a crowd of almost 1,000 Timorese to watch the friendly soccer match between the FALINTIL veterans and the INTERFET veterans. After this first match, the F-FDTL national football team played against the Australian Defence Force, in an equally friendly but more competitive match.

It is hoped the Cosgrove / Xanana Cup will become an annual event.



International and head of states guests also took this opportunity to meet with H.E. Xanana Gusmão, including the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia; the Hon. Charlot Salwai, Prime Minister of Vanuatu; a delegation from the United States; as well as Mr Ian Martin himself.

H.E. Xanana Gusmão was also featured on ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) news, as well as Sir Peter Cosgrove and H.E. Dr José Ramos-Horta, on a documentary special, 'A Call to Arms: The Liberation of East Timor'. Please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhN7zIIXgk4>



Australian PM and Chief Negotiator meet in Dili, MBO, 30 August 2019

Extraordinary friendship match, National Stadium, Dili, 20 September 2019

## MBO Capacity Building, October – December 2019

The MBO prioritises capacity building of its national staff. It provides opportunities for staff to develop their English and Portuguese at LELI and MBO also sends its staff for training internationally where it is not available locally. From October till December 2019, staff undertook courses on administration, communications and public relations, as well as operations and supply management.

This was made possible with excellent collaboration from Fundos Desenvolvimento do Capital Humano (FDCH).



Supply Management short course with Mr. Surachman ST (left), SpectraCentre, Jakarta, 4-18 October 2019



Essential Skills for Executive Assistant, New Horizons, Brisbane, 4-7 November 2019



Intensive Communications and Public Relations, ISOC, London, 4-15 November 2019

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