



Building International Relations

Staff members returning from Jakarta



Commissioner, José Abílio

Update from the Commissioner

Commissioner Abílio officially welcomed the new USAID/Timor-Leste Trade Governance Activity, which will support our ongoing journey to reform and modernize our services. The new activity will operate until August 2025, and will help us to develop new laws, policies and procedures that facilitate trade. By following these new rules this will also help us to comply with international standards, which is very important as we continue on our mission to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the World Trade Organization. The new activity will also help us to develop public service announcements (short videos) and booklets which will help our clients to better understand these new rules and regulations.

Building International Relations

Following an invitation from our customs counterparts in Indonesia, we sent twenty members of our staff for training at the Basic Customs Training at the Education and Training Center

facility in Jakarta.

Our staff fully embraced the opportunity to receive training from their Indonesian counterparts, reporting that the course really helped them to better understand their role and responsibilities.

This activity follows the signing of a capacity building Memorandum of Understanding between the Indonesian Directorate General of Customs and Excise and us in 2022. Moving forwards, we are looking forward to working closely with our counterparts to help build our capacity and strengthen our relations.

Stakeholder Engagement

In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Timor-Leste, we held our first Customs and Trade Consultative Committee meeting this month. Stakeholders from multi sector were invited to join to discuss general trade-related issues and opportunities, including importers, exporters, transport companies, and customs brokers. During this meeting, all parties also agreed the committee Terms of Reference, which will help to govern how future meetings are administered. Recognizing that engaging with our stakeholders is critical, we plan to hold committee meetings 3-4 times every year.

Raising the Flag

This month represented an important mile-stone for our administration, as for the first time ever, our female colleagues led the flag raising



CA Women Raising the Flag

ceremony at the Ministry of Finance.

Overseen by H.E. Minister of Finance, H.E. Vice Minister of Finance, and our Commissioner, a number of our female colleagues proudly escorted and raised the national flag. At the same time, all those in attendance sang the national anthem.

Overseeing the event, our National Director of Administration and Logistics Rosa Maria Cruz proudly commenting,

“It is time that us women take more a lead in these ceremonies, and I encourage my female colleagues to show what women can do”.