



Report of the Official Visit to Jakarta, Indonesia Meetings with BRIN and UNESCO

From :

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9–11 March 2026

1. Introduction

From 9 to 11 March 2026, I have conducted an official mission to Jakarta, Indonesia, with the objective of strengthening institutional cooperation between the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT) of Timor-Leste, the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia, and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta.

The mission involved two main meetings. The first meeting was held with representatives of BRIN Indonesia to explore opportunities for scientific and technological collaboration between INCT and BRIN, particularly in areas related to the Blue Economy, fisheries development, agriculture, and research capacity building. Special attention was given to the possibility of conducting joint research on marine resources in the maritime border areas between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, with each institution carrying out research within its respective national territory and later integrating the results into a joint research output.

The second meeting was conducted with representatives of the UNESCO Office in Jakarta to discuss the implementation of the India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) Project in Timor-Leste. The discussion focused on identifying individuals to serve in the National and International Consultative Councils, clarifying the structure and formation of these bodies, and outlining the initial timeframe and coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the project.

Overall, the mission aimed to strengthen international cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, while also advancing collaborative initiatives that can support research development, institutional capacity building, and sustainable development in Timor-Leste.

2. First Day – Meeting with BRIN Indonesia

Date: 9 March 2026

Location: BRIN Headquarters, Jalan Gatot Subroto, Jakarta

Participants:

- Bapak Agus Eko Nugroho, Head of the Research Organization for Governance, Economy, and Public Welfare.
- Ms. Umi Karomah Yaumidin, Head of the Research Center for Behavioral Economics and Economic Structure.
- Jose Cornelio Guterres, Executive President of INCT, Timor-Leste

The first day of the mission was dedicated to a meeting with representatives of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia. The discussion focused on identifying potential areas of cooperation between INCT and BRIN, particularly in scientific research, technological development, and institutional collaboration.

One of the central topics discussed during the meeting was the possibility of conducting joint research on the Blue Economy in the maritime border areas between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Both institutions recognized that such collaboration could contribute to a deeper understanding of marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries management, and economic opportunities linked to maritime resources in the border region.

Under the proposed framework, INCT would conduct research within the territory of Timor-Leste, while BRIN would conduct research within Indonesian territory. At the conclusion of the research process, both institutions would integrate and combine the results into a joint research output, which could contribute to policy development and sustainable management of marine resources in the border areas.



In addition to the Blue Economy initiative, the meeting also explored other areas of potential cooperation. These included research and innovation in the fisheries sector, particularly the development of medium-scale fisheries industries and the promotion of the “Budu Tasi” industry, which relates to marine-based products and coastal economic activities that can support local livelihoods and economic development.

The discussion also addressed cooperation in agricultural research, with the aim of improving productivity, sustainability, and technological innovation in the agricultural sector.

Another important topic discussed during the meeting was human resource development and research capacity building. BRIN expressed openness to supporting the development of scientific capacity in Timor-Leste through training opportunities, research exchanges, and technical collaboration. In particular, the possibility was discussed for INCT researchers to access and utilize BRIN laboratory facilities for specific scientific research activities.

Such cooperation would allow researchers from Timor-Leste to benefit from advanced scientific equipment and research infrastructure, while also strengthening collaborative research networks between INCT and BRIN.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both institutions also conducted a symbolic exchange of gifts as a gesture of friendship and institutional partnership. This exchange reflected the shared commitment of INCT and BRIN to strengthen scientific cooperation and mutual understanding between Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

Overall, the meeting with BRIN demonstrated a strong mutual interest in developing long-term cooperation in science, technology, and innovation, which could contribute to strengthening research capacity and supporting sustainable development in both countries.

3. Second Day – Meeting with UNESCO Jakarta

Date: 10 March 2026

Location: UNESCO Office, Jakarta

Participants:

- Ms. Rafieian Fereshteh, UNESCO Jakarta
- Ms. Fitrie Nutrisari, UNESCO Jakarta
- Jose Cornelio Guterres, Executive President of INCT

On the second day of the mission, a meeting was held with representatives of the UNESCO Office in Jakarta to discuss the implementation of the IBSA Project in Timor-Leste. The discussion focused on the initial steps required to begin operationalizing the project, including institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and the identification of key stakeholders.

One of the key issues discussed during the meeting was the identification of individuals who could serve on the National and International Consultative Councils of the project. These consultative bodies are expected to play an important role in providing strategic guidance, technical input, and advisory support for the implementation of project activities.

The meeting also addressed the formation and structure of these consultative councils, including possible criteria for membership, representation of relevant institutions, and the roles and responsibilities of council members. In addition, discussions were held on the organization of the first consultative meetings, which will help define the operational framework of the project and ensure effective coordination among stakeholders.

Another important aspect of the discussion concerned the timeframe for the implementation of the project, including the initial phases of planning, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of project activities. Representatives from UNESCO emphasized the importance of establishing clear coordination mechanisms and maintaining effective communication between national institutions and international partners to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

During the meeting, I also provided updates on several ongoing initiatives led by the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT). In particular, I explained the progress in establishing the National Digital Research Repository of INCT, which aims to strengthen the management, accessibility, and dissemination of scientific research produced in Timor-Leste. This initiative is expected to play an important role in improving research visibility, knowledge sharing, and scientific collaboration at both national and international levels.

Furthermore, I shared information on the progress of the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy development process in Timor-Leste, which was conducted in 2024 with the support of OACPS-PFS/EU. This policy initiative aims to provide a strategic framework for strengthening research systems, innovation capacity, and scientific governance in the country.

Overall, the meeting provided a valuable opportunity to clarify the next steps required to initiate the IBSA project, particularly in relation to governance structures, institutional coordination, and the implementation timeline, while also strengthening collaboration between INCT and UNESCO Jakarta in supporting the development of science, technology, and innovation in Timor-Leste.



4. Conclusion

The mission to Jakarta from 9 to 11 March 2026 provided an important opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT) of Timor-Leste, the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia, and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta. The meetings allowed for constructive dialogue on potential partnerships and concrete steps toward advancing collaborative initiatives in science, technology, and innovation.

The meeting with BRIN Indonesia opened promising opportunities for joint scientific research, particularly in the area of the Blue Economy in the maritime border region between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. The discussions also identified additional areas of cooperation, including fisheries development, the Budu Tasi marine-based industry, agricultural research, and human resource development. Furthermore, the possibility for INCT researchers to access BRIN laboratory facilities represents an important step toward strengthening research capacity and technical expertise in Timor-Leste.

The meeting with the UNESCO Office in Jakarta contributed to advancing the initial planning and coordination for the implementation of the IBSA Project in Timor-Leste. Discussions focused on the establishment of National and International Consultative Councils, the development of governance structures, and the preparation of an implementation timeline for the project. The meeting also provided an opportunity to share updates on INCT's ongoing initiatives, including

the development of the National Digital Research Repository and the progress of the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policy process completed in 2024.

Overall, these engagements represent meaningful steps toward strengthening international research collaboration, institutional partnerships, and scientific capacity building. They also contribute to supporting the broader objective of advancing science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of sustainable development in Timor-Leste.

Sincerely,


Dr. José Cornélio Guterres

Conselho Executivo
Executive President

National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT)

Timor-Leste