Report of Attended MTCP 2026 Course on

Science Diplomacy for the Global South

at UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

23 June – 2 July 2026

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I. Introduction

Timor-Leste's participation in the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) 2026 course at UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 10 days, from 23 June to 2 July 2026 demonstrated our commitment and willingness in response to the mission of ASEAN as a newest ASEAN Member State, and this was a great opportunity for Timor-Leste to takes part into ASEAN programme.

Timor-Leste through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation forwarded the invitation letter received from MTCP 2026 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia and requested to the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture to nominate (MESCC) two persons as Timor-Leste's Representative to attend this course. Then due to the MTCP's assessment procedures and selection criteria that applied to all candidates, and finally, Timor-Leste has only one selected candidate for this course together with the other 15 selected candidates from different countries, like Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Uzbekistan. The selected candidate from Timor-Leste was Mr. Valente Ferreira as National Director for Exact and Natural Sciences at National Institute of Sciences and Technology under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture of Timor-Leste.

The MTCP is under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia which collaborated with UCSI University as the hosted for MTCP 2026 course on Science Diplomacy for the Global South. MTCP has its own objectives such as how to share development experiences with other developing countries, to strengthening bilateral ties between Malaysia and other developing countries, to promote south-south cooperation, and also to promote technical cooperation among developing countries. To achieve these objectives, MTCP provides chance for human resources capacity building and development in the areas of diplomacy and diplomatic practices, economy, good governance, education, tourism, environment, social development, halal industry, safety and security including technology and others relevant areas (UCSI-IISD, 2026).

The MTCP's chance provided through technical course which focused on Science Diplomacy for the Global South that bring together policymakers and government officials from the relevant minister lines, scientist and researcher, middle to senior level diplomats and academics was to share and discuss by understanding the key dimensions of science diplomacy and diplomacy for science, science for diplomacy and science in diplomacy (Abdul Hamid and Osman, 2024) to address the global issues and south-south cooperation among developing countries.

II. Objective

The objective of this report is to share those knowledge and skills learned and gained during the 10 days of MTCP 2026 course on Science Diplomacy for the Global South which held from 23 June to 2 July at UCSI-IISD, UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to INCT and MESCC of Timor-Leste.

III. Course Structure and Programme Learned

The structure of the MTCP 2026 course is composed of presentations of MTCP background, learning outcomes, course participants, science diplomacy for the global south, course schedule table, and also lectures and presentations.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, all the participant are expected to understand and apply the principles of science diplomacy and diplomacy for science to address global issues and challenges, accelerate progress towards sustainable development, strengthen South-South and technical cooperation, and contribute to science-informed policymaking. The participants will be able to develop their skills to navigate the science-policy nexus, engage in international collaboration and leverage scientific knowledge to advance national and regional development priorities. Then, participants also recognize the Malaysia's role on strategic cooperation and science diplomacy through the MTCP and UCSI-IISDS in capacity building and knowledge transfer among each other.

Course Participants

The participants for MTCP 2026 course were coming from 16 different countries and only one delegate of each country, such as one from Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Uzbekistan that allowed to attend this course.

Course Instructors

There were around 30 instructors that delivered the MTCP 2026 course which came from different academic and relevant research institutions inside Malaysia and from other countries. They were mostly from UCSI-IISDS, UCSI University and some from Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, IDFR, FRIM, MIGHT Cyberjaya, UCSI Beijing Office, Climate Governance Malaysia Council, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, USA Science Diplomacy Centre, Corporate Sustainability Office Malaysia, The Business Council of Sustainability Development Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Universiti Teknologi MARA,

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Reef Check Malaysia, Malaysian Science and Technology Information Center (MOSTI) and Khazanah Research Institute.

Course Methodology

The MTCP 2026 course has applied a combination of methodologies to ensure comprehensive learning, such as classroom lectures and expert presentations of both offline and online, group discussions and interactive sessions, individual and group exercises, case studies and site visits.

Course Programme

The outlined of course programme was composed of 11 topics such as following:

- Introduction to science diplomacy;
- Role of science in foreign policy;
- International scientific cooperation;
- Science and sustainable development goals;
- Climate change negotiations;
- Biodiversity and environmental diplomacy;
- Planetary health diplomacy;
- Technology transfer and innovation;
- Science communications for Diplomats;
- Strategic leadership in science diplomacy;
- And South-south cooperation.

The course programme details and learned during 10 days at UCSI University and Le Quadry Kuala Lumpur by UCSI Hotels as presented below:

Monday, 22 June 2026 was the arrival day for all participant

Day 1 – Tuesday, 23 June 2026

On the first day of MTCP course, it was started with several key sessions that delivered by UCSI University's executive guests and from MIGHT, attended by all guest and participant including the Ambassadors and representative of embassies of each country in Malaysia. These sessions are as following:

- Opening ceremony by all guest and participant.
- Introduction by Course Coordinator, Prof. Mohamad Osman as Deputy Director of International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS), UCSI University.

- Welcoming remarks by Mr. Rushdi Rahim as President and CEO of MIGTH Cyberjaya.
- Welcoming address by Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc, Founding Director of IISDS-UCSI.
- Opening speech by Dato' Peter Ng, FASc as Founder and Executive Chairman of UCSI Group.
- Group photo session by all guest and participant;
- Ice breaking and pre-course assessment: Introduction of Course Coordinator, Resource Persons, MTCP Participants, Pre-course assessment of participants (Conducted before the start of 10 days programme) by Prof. Dr. Mohamad Osman as Course Coordinator and also interactive sharing session with MTCP 2025 selected participants led by Mrs. Hawa Fitriah Hamuzan as Course Administrator of UCSI-IISDS, UCSI University.
- Introduction to science diplomacy and arts of negotiations and skillsets in science diplomacy by Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc, Founding Director of IISDS-UCSI.
- Science advice to the government by Prof. Ts Dr Tan Wee Hoe as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UCSI Beijing Office.
- Effective communication in science diplomacy by Prof. Emeritus Datuk Ts Ir Dr. Siti Hamisah Tapsir, FASc as UCSI University President and Vice-Chancellor.
- Science diplomacy: bridging, diving and building solution by Prof. Mohamad Osman.

Opening ceremony and introduction of MTCP 2026 course on science diplomacy for the global south at UCSI University, Block G, Level 11.

Day 2 – Wednesday, 24 June 2026

On the 2nd day we have visited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia and learned some key point presentations including group discussion such as below:

- Official visit to MTCP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia. We have attended a technical presentation about the main responsibilities of International Cooperation and Development Division such as Malaysia and the South-South Cooperation, and the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.
- Negotiating the UNFCC in the post-modern era by Dr. Gary William Theseira as Climate Governance Malaysia Council Chair.
- Online presentation about climate change: IPCC insight and global south impacts by Prof. Emeritus Dr. Fredolin Tangang from University Brunei Darussalam.
- Group discussion I: Brief introduction to all participant on how to prepare each country report presentation (it's only addressed and highlighted the main project of the country that significantly contributed to achievement of SDGs), and then followed by presentation about the global challenges in sustainability and the architecture of global sustainability governance, led by Prof. Mohamad Osman.

Official visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia (Wisma Putra), Putrajaya.

Day 3 – Thursday, 25 June 2026

During this day, we have learned about lessons from Antarctica, SDG and also, we did study visit to IDFR, as presented below:

- Online presentation about science into policy: global lessons from Antarctica by Prof. Paul Arthur as Founder and President of USA Science Diplom7acy Centre, Harvard Law School Negotiation Programme.
- Achieving sustainable development and SDGs beyond 2030 by Dr. Alizan Mahadi as Senior Manager of Corporate Sustainability Office.
- The challenges of incorporating environment, social and governance in sustainable development by Mr. Surin Suksuwan as Director of the Business Council of Sustainable Development Malaysia.

- Study visit to Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Kuala Lumpur. During this study visit, we had technical presentations by IDFR's team about the responsibilities and work programme of each unit and cooperations with foreign countries among the global south including Timor-Leste.

Day 4 – Friday, 26 June 2026

On this day, the course's lessons were focused on science diplomacy for global pandemic, physiology and scientific cooperation, such as following:

- Pandemic: science diplomacy in action by Prof. Emeritus Datuk Ts Ir Dr. Siti Hamisah Tapsir, FASc.
- Vaccine without border: Navigating global vaccine innovation and diplomacy by Prof. Dr. Lionel in Lian Aun as Deputy Director of IISDS, UCSI University.
- Why do we do and what we do: recognizing, understanding and managing emotions in the science diplomacy nexus by Prof. Dr. Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, FTWAS, FWAAS as Adjunct Professor at IISDS, UCSI University.
- Driving international scientific cooperation for a sustainable future by Prof. Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Mokhtar as Adjunct Professor at IISDS, UCSI University.

Day 5 – Saturday, 27 June 2026

On the 5th day course was filled by study visit to FRIM and also cultural visit to Kuala Lumpur city, as well as:

- Visit to Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong. During this visit, we have attended technical presentation about FRIM background and responsibilities, including FRIM forest park Selangor as Malaysia's 6th UNESCO world heritage site. And also, presentation about biodiversity, climate change and global sustainability by Mr. Ahmad Syazwan Samsuddin as FRIM Technical Team. After the presentations, we continue to observed directly the FRIM forest and its surrounding areas.
- Cultural visit to Kuala Lumpur City.

Visit to Forest Rearsearch Institute Malaysia, Kepong.

Day 6 – Sunday, 28 June 2026: Free and easy day for all participant

This was free day for all participant who want to stay just inside Le Quadri Hotels or travelling around the Kuala Lumpur city and or visit to somewhere.

Day 7 – Monday, 29 June 2026

For the 7th day course, we have learned about science diplomacy in SDGs and ESG, plastic paradox and also group discussion with different topic, such as presented below:

- SDGs and ESG in diplomacy: global goals and national priorities for a sustainable future by Mr. Leong Sat Sing, UCSI University.
- Advancing SDGs implementation of the 2030 agenda by Prof. Nadzri Yahaya, UCSI University.
- The plastic paradox by Ass. Prof. Dr. Siti Hafsyah Idris as Director of ICAN, University Teknologi MARA (UiTM).
- Group discussion II: Case studies which divided into three group with different discussion topics, such as Group I with case study I about national energy transition road map (Malaysia's case study) that led by Prof. Mohamad Osman. Then Group II with case study II about addressing transboundary haze in ASEAN: current efforts and ongoing challenges, led by Prof. Mohd Talib Latif, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), and Group III with case study III about strengthening the coral triangle initiative (CTI): challenges and regional opportunities, run by Mr. Jasmin M. Saad as Chief Public Policy and Advocacy Officer at Reef Check Malaysia.

Day 8 – Tuesday, 30 June 2026

On this day, we have focused on study visits to SD Guthrie Research Centre and MIGHT Cyberjaya:

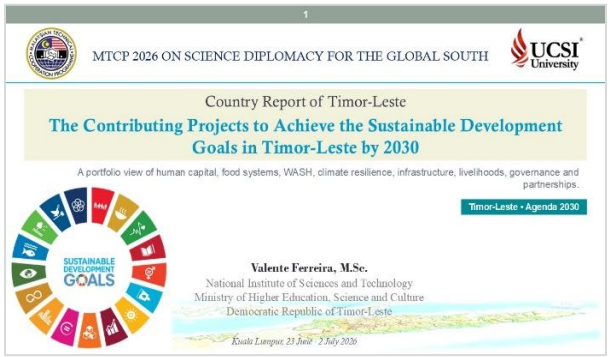
- Visit to SD Guthrie Research. During this visit, we have directly the field presentation about palm oil plants and processing from upstream to downstream by SD Guthrie's Technical Team. Then visit to see palm oil plants around the SD Guthrie Research: Palm Oil Experience Centre area, moved to SD Guthrie seeds and agricultural services Sdn Bhd (SDGSAS), we attended a technical presentation about oil palm in Malaysia: economy, communities and truth behind the myths by Dr. Sukganah Apparow, and then moved to see the palm oil seeds management.
- Visit to MIGHT Cyberjaya – Malaysian Industry-Government for High Technology. In this visit, we attended the presentations from MIGHT's technical team about harnessing foresight and future studies to strengthen science diplomacy by Mohd Naurul Azammi Mohd Nudri, and contributions of the business sector to STI diplomacy and avenues for engagement by Prof. Mohd Zakwan Mohd Zabidi as Adjunct Professor at IISDS, UCSI University. And then continue visited to Federal Administrative Centre of Putrajaya Malaysia.

Visited to SD Guthrie (Palm Oil and Research Centre) and MIGHT Cyberjaya Office.

Day 9 – Wednesday, 1 July 2026

For the 9th day, it was concentrated on reframing sustainability, deep ocean and followed by country presentations by each country delegate with different topics, such as below:

- Reframing sustainability for the global south by Prof. Dr. Eric Chan Wei Chiang as Head of Master Programme at IISDS, UCSI University.
- Understanding the deep ocean: Scientific foundations for BBNJ and seabed governance by Dr. Khaira Ismail as Deputy Director of Blue Economy Advancement Centre at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.
- Student enrolment Centre (SEC) sharing session by Ms. Jasvin which focused on introduction of UCSI University.
- Country presentation by each country's delegate with different topics based on successful achievement of SDGs. In this chance, Timor-Leste has presented its country report which focused on those physical projects that contributed for achieving SDGs in Timor-Leste based on 2030 agenda.
- Wrap-up and closing by Prof. Mohamad Osman.



Country report presentation of Timor-Leste about "The Contributing Projects to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Timor-Leste by 2030" on Level 11 of Le Quadri Hotels.

Day 10 – Thursday, 2 July 2026

On this 10th day, we have learned about how to strengthening south-south cooperation, science diplomacy for the global south and then followed by closing ceremony which attended by all participant, UCSI University's Executive Guests, the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, some of course Lecturers and also the embassy's representative of each country in Malaysia including from Timor-Leste. The sessions for this day as following:

- Strengthening south-south cooperation by Dr. Yin Shao Loong as Deputy Director of Research at Khazanah Research Institute.

- Science diplomacy for the global south by Dr. Datin Seri Sunita Mei-Lin Rajakuma as Founder and Council Member of Climate Governance Malaysia.
- Course assessment: lessons learned and impacts on future practice: participants' perspectives led by Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc.
- Closing Ceremony: All guest and participant:
    - Introduction by Course Coordinator, Prof. Mohamad Osman;
    - Welcoming address by Emeritus Distinguished Prof. Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc.;
    - Speech by Mr. Devrin Jeck as the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia about undersecretary of international cooperation and development division;
    - Closing speech by Prof. Emeritus Datuk Ts Ir Dr. Siti Hamisah Tapsir, FASc.;
    - Participants' Testimonial about 10 days of MTCP course on science diplomacy for the global south;
    - Certificate presentation to course participants;
    - Group photo of all guest with participants;
    - Refreshment and end of MTCP 2026 course.

Friday, 3 July 2026 was the departure day for participants to their home countries.

This is the departure day for 16 participants to leave Le Quadri Hotels and return to each country.

IV. Outcomes and Benefits for Timor-Leste

As the newest ASEAN Member State, this MCTP course as an important milestone for Timor-Leste in gaining opportunities for lessons learned, skills and knowledge transfer, adapting and learn new environment and diversity cultures among developing countries, and also promoting Timor-Leste to around the globe.

Through the MTCP course, Timor-Leste can learn and gain more skills and knowledge on science diplomacy for the global south. It provides outcomes as well as bridge and soft power skills to Timor-Leste on how to apply science diplomacy for:

- Strengthening its foreign and regional cooperations with other developing countries to drive sustainable development goals and to provide solutions for national development challenges;
- Supporting Timor-Leste links to the South-South collaboration to fosters a valuable network of scientific and diplomatic peers across the global south nations to share solutions for regional challenges;

- Promoting sustainable development of Timor-Leste. This course provides Timorese delegate with the skills and knowledge to leverage scientific data for better policymaking regarding climate change, food security, renewable energy and energy transition, biodiversity loss and marine resource conservation and management;
- Supporting Timor-Leste to have crucial skills in consensus-building and strategic multilateral negotiations to accelerate national development process;
- Enhanced climate negotiations among global south nations. The course provides Timor-Leste with the technical knowledge on how to better advocate Timor-Leste's interests in global climate and economic opportunities, including biodiversity conferences in the global south.

Timor-Leste will get more chance to participate and learn more in next MTCP courses. Therefore, Timorese professionals in relevant ministries lines, like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture including the National Institute of Sciences and Technology (INCT) and the other academic and research institutions can participate in these fully-funded capacity-building opportunities of MTCP courses to strengthen its national capacity.

V. Strategic Action and National Enforcement

Those scientific skills and knowledge learned and gathered during the 10 days of MTCP course as the foundation for Timor-Leste as newest ASEAN Member State that needs to build and create its own strategic actions on using science diplomacy as a tool for fostering south-south cooperations and addressing its national development challenges.

The strategic action and national enforcement that need to be taken by Timor-Leste is how to use science diplomacy for translating the global knowledge into its practical policies in main strategic pillars, such as:

- Institutional development and the political-science nexus. This is very useful for Timor-Leste to establish an Office of Scientific Advice for inter-ministerial consultative network among the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture, National Institute of Sciences and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment and also the other key minister lines to ensure that Timor-Leste’s strategic and diplomatic decisions are strongly based on science evidences and or robust scientific data and information. Then needs to apply capacity building locally on science diplomacy for government officers and policymakers, researchers and scientists, middle- and senior level diplomats including academics for addressing its national development challenges and foreign cooperation issues.

- Integration into global and regional levels and ASEAN diplomacy. Timor-Leste needs to use science diplomacy as a tool to aligned with the ASEAN agenda and regional cooperation in science, technology and innovation. And also needs to build and strength cross-boarder partnerships for promoting joint research, data-sharing and skills-knowledges transfers between ASEAN Members States, Pacific Countries and other regional partners on related key issues, such as climate change and food security.
- Building strong climate diplomacy resilience and green and blue economies. Using science diplomacy to manage the global climate change impacts, land and marine resources, combat illegal fishing and monitor sea level rise, and then how to gain opportunities in term of climate finance for Timor-Leste as one of Small Island Developing States in the global regions.
- Securing food sovereignty and integrated health system. Timor-Leste can use science diplomacy knowledge and skills to create science-based partnerships for securing and sustaining the national agricultural technologies system and management of El-Nino and La-Nina impacts. And needs to build and secure an integrated and sustainable public health systems for all Timorese through shared epidemiological surveillance networks with the global south including the pacific.

VI. Conclusion and Recommendations

To summarize that Timor-Leste's delegation was successfully attended the 10 days of MTCP 2026 course, started from the beginning (opening ceremony) until the end of the course (closing ceremony). Timor-Leste also actively in class room lectures and presentations, group discussions and site visits including presented its country report.

Timor-Leste considers that the MTCP 2026 course was very important and as impressive course that brings 16 delegates from different countries across Asia, Africa and South America in learned and shared together about science diplomacy for the global south and also presented each country report of SDGs achievements. Science diplomacy as scientific strategic to address global challenges in climate change, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution and SDGs among the global south nations.

As the Timor-Leste's delegates for MTCP 2026 course on science diplomacy for the global south, I strongly recommended to the government of Timor-Leste and its relevant minister lines including associated public institutions and academic researchers to actively search, access and follow to apply the next MTCP courses, because it's provides some essential course areas that are very relevant and useful for Timor-Leste as young country to learn and learn more sciences, skills and knowledge, and experience. The MTCP courses are covered

in science diplomacy for the global south, climate change, international maritime, maritime safety and security, energy transition, tourism, curriculum innovation for STEM education, defense and cybersecurity in digital economy, sustainable agriculture, investment and trade promotions, governance and diplomatic, anti-corruption, disaster management, sustainable infrastructure and green technology, maritime decarbonisation, cybercrime enforcement, networks, counter terrorism, digital audit, language, renewable energy, economic diplomacy, safety and health management, narcotics identification and law enforcement, and also risk management for air traffic (MTCP - Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, 2026). These areas are crucial and will provide significant contributions in building Timorese capabilities and skills toward country development process. Therefore, this is as a great chance for Timor-Leste to integrates well itself into ASEAN programme and linked with the other global south nations.

To build Timor-Leste as stronger nation, successfully achieve its wellbeing and prosperous in the future, we need to apply and introduce scientific knowledge and science diplomacy, strategic and decision making based on science evidences in addressing the national development challenges and economic growth.

Annex

The Country Report Presentation of Timor-Leste:

"The Contributing Projects to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Timor-Leste by 2030"

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MTCP 2026 ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH

UCSI University

Country Report of Timor-Leste

The Contributing Projects to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Timor-Leste by 2030

A portfolio view of human capital, food systems, WASH, climate resilience, infrastructure, livelihoods, governance and partnerships.

Timor-Leste • Agenda 2030

Valente Ferreira, M.Sc.
National Institute of Sciences and Technology
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Kuala Lumpur, 23 June - 2 July 2026

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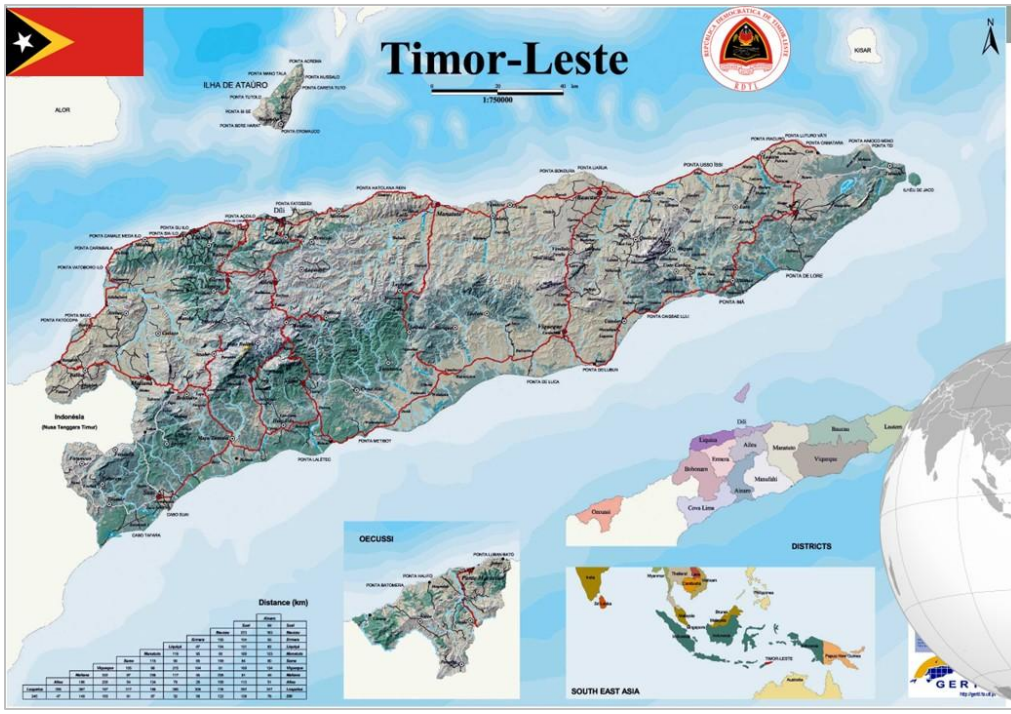
Outlines

I. Overview of SDGs and National Plan
II. National Context and Challenges
III. Key Projects and Initiatives
IV. Expected Impacts by 2030
V. Conclusion and Call for Action



TL has a total area of 14,874 km2, with a coastline of approximately 700 km.

It's a mountainous country with a tropical climate, featuring distinct rainy and dry seasons.

It has 1.34 million people with a growth rate of 2.1 %, and around 75% of them are living as Agricultures.

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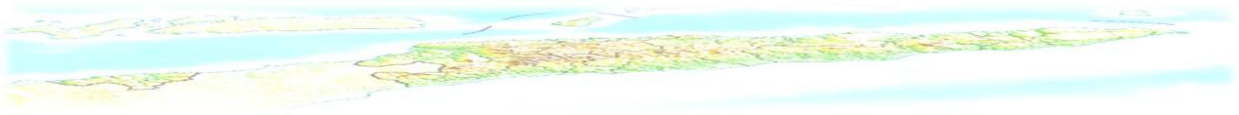
- The island was colonialized by Portugal for 450 years, Japan's Military invaded for 2 years and Indonesia during 24 years;
- The Unilateral Proclamation of Independence on 28 november 1975 and Restoration of its Independence on 20 May 2002;
- Official language: Tetum and Portuguese, then English and Indonesian are recognized as working languages;
- Economy: TL has potential sectors, like agriculture, tourism, natural resources and industries that need to develop to diversify its economic;
- TL's economic development is primarily driven by and heavily dependent on oil and gas production.



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I. Overview of SDGs and National Plan

- Timor-Leste is pursuing the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by **2030** through a combination of national strategies and international partnerships.
- The **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021–2025** supports 67 of the 169 global SDG targets across 15 SDGs, focusing on human capital, economic transformation, climate resilience, and inclusive governance.
- Timor-Leste has incorporated these goals into its national Strategic Development Plan and works closely with international organizations to:

Focus on **Capital Social**, **Infrastructure Development**, **Economic Diversification** and **Institutional Framework**.
beyond petroleum dependency.

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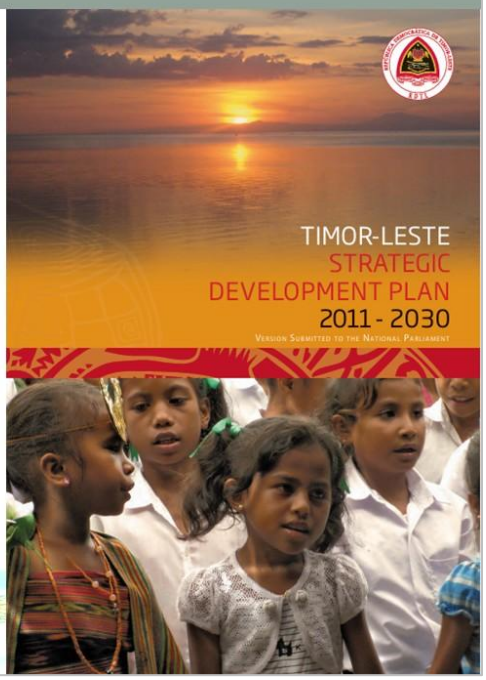
II. National Context and Challenges

The **Strategic Development Plan (2011–2030)** outlines Timor-Leste's ambition to transition to an upper-middle-income country, emphasizing inclusive development, infrastructure and institutional strengthening.

*It emphasizes the need for technology-driven transformation and a **blue-green economy.***



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Challenges:

Although Timor-Leste has achieved significant progress since independence, several challenges remain.

These include:

- Poverty and unemployment;
- Limited healthcare services;
- Education quality;
- Water and sanitation;
- Climate change impacts;
- Infrastructure development.

Addressing these challenges requires integrated projects that contribute to multiple SDGs simultaneously.

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III. Key Projects and Initiatives

3.1. Health Projects under the Ministry of Health – SDGs 3

Include:

- Community health centers;
- Maternal and child healthcare;
- Vaccination programs;
- Nutrition improvement;
- Mobile medical services.

Status of SDGs 3 is On Track

These projects aim to improve access to quality healthcare, such as reduce mortality, improve life expectancy, and strengthen the healthcare system, particularly in rural communities.

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III. Key Projects and Initiatives

3.2. Education Projects under the Ministry of Education – SDGs 4

Timor-Leste appointed that Education is one of the strongest foundations for sustainable development.

Current projects focus on:

- Building schools;
- Teacher training;
- Digital learning;
- School feeding programs;
- Technical and vocational education.

Improving education equips young people with the knowledge and skills needed for future employment and national development.

Status of SDGs 4 is On Track

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III. Key Projects and Initiatives

3.3. WASH Projects under the Ministry of Public Works – SDGs 6

Timor-Leste considers that access to clean water and sanitation is essential for public health and sustainable life.

Key projects include:

- Rural water supply systems;
- Community wells;
- Sanitation facilities;
- Hygiene education;
- Water quality monitoring.

These projects targeted to reduce waterborne diseases while improving living conditions.

Status of SDGs 6 is On Track

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III. Key Projects and Initiatives

Status of SDGs 2 is On Track

2 ZERO HUNGER

3.4. Agriculture and Food Security Projects under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry – SDGs 2

Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors in Timor-Leste.

Development projects support farmers through:

- Improved irrigation;
- Better crop varieties;
- Agricultural training;
- Coffee production improvement;
- Climate-smart farming.

These activities increase food security and household income.

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III. Key Projects and Initiatives

Status of SDGs 2 is On Track

2 ZERO HUNGER

Rice farming in Timor-Leste

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III. Key Projects and Initiatives

3.5. Infrastructure and Economic Development – SDGs 8 & 9

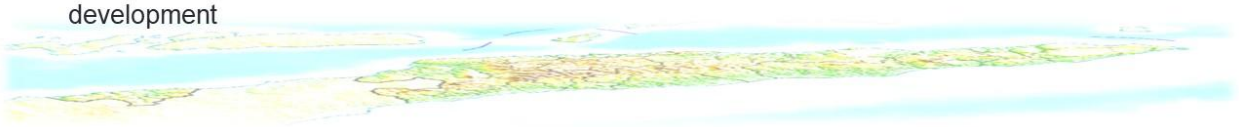
Infrastructure investment supports economic growth and job creation.

Major projects include:

- Roads and bridges;
- Electricity expansion;
- Telecommunications;
- Public transportation;
- Small business support.

Status of SDGs 8 & 9 are On Tracks

These investments improve market access, encourage investment, and stimulate economic development



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Roads and Transport

National road rehabilitation and maintenance systems.
Climate-proof drainage, slope protection and bridges.
Rural feeder links to farms, markets and health posts.

Energy access

Solar-diesel hybrid and mini-grid models for isolated communities.
Energy skills development and utility capacity building.
Productive energy for SMEs, cold chains and public services.

By 2030: mobility + reliable energy = stronger human capital and economic diversification.

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Electrification projects: TL's government has installed four power plants that fueled by diesel oil which generating capacity of 276 MW that covered for all territory needs.

- The electrification projects are contributing for among SDGs 3, 5, 7 and 13 and others.

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Tasi-Mane's Project higlight

This included:

- **Suai Supply Base:** TL's Government has authorized to start negotiations with the relevant companies for construction.
- **Suai Airport:** Construction has been completed and handed over to the Government for operationalization.
- **Highway:** Packages such as the Suai-Zumalai and Natarbora roads have entered the technical proposal evaluation phase.

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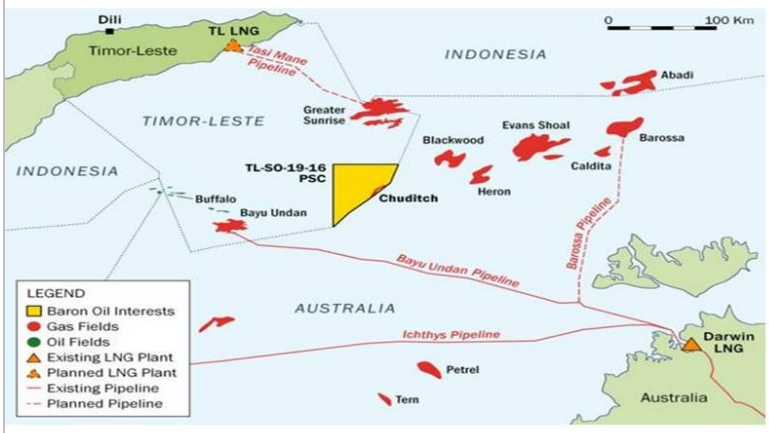
Tasi-Mane's Project higlight



- **Greater Sunrise:** *Sunrise and Troubadour gas and condensate fields:*
  - The field was discovered in 1974 with contains 5.1 TCF of NG and 220 MB of condensate;
  - This field is essential for TL's future economic growth and development;

But the development of the field is under ongoing negotiation between TL and Australian governments including SJV.

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III. Key Projects and Initiatives

Status of SDGs 13 & 15 are On Tracks

3.6. Climate Action and Environmental Protection – SDGs 13 & 15

Climate change presents significant risks to Timor-Leste.

Current environmental projects include:

- Reforestation;
- Coastal protection;
- Mangrove restoration;
- Disaster risk reduction;
- Renewable energy.

These projects help protect ecosystems while increasing resilience to climate-related disasters.

Other project by Inter-Agencies:

Ai ba Futuru/Sustainable Forestry A **5-year EU and German-funded project**, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

- Aims to plant **3 million trees** across 6,000 hectares, targeting **4,000 marginalized households** in 40 villages. Supports job creation, climate resilience, and ecosystem restoration.

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The Other Projects: Funded by Inter-Agencies

Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience (SDGs 12 & 14: Life Below Water, Sustainable Livelihoods):

- Launched in **2024**, funded by **GIZ** under the **Coral Triangle Initiative**, implemented by **Conservation International Timor-Leste.**
- Promotes co-management of marine protected areas and sustainable coastal livelihoods with a budget of **USD 1 million** through December 2026.

Status of SDGs 13 & 15 are On Tracks

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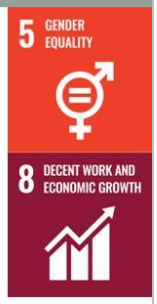
The Other Projects: Funded by Inter-Agencies



Women-Led Economic Empowerment via Weavers' Association (SDGs 5 & 8: Gender Equality, Decent Work)

- Supported by **UN Women in 2025**, this initiative transformed an informal network into the first registered **women-led weavers' association (RSN)**, representing **1,600+ women** across all municipalities;
- Enabled a permanent storefront in Dili, enhancing market access for traditional textiles (tais) and promoting both cultural heritage and economic opportunity.

Status of SDGs 5 & 8 are On Tracks

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Partnerships for Sustainable Development

- No One Country or a single organization can achieve the SDGs alone.
- Successful implementation depends on partnerships among:
  - Government ministries lines;
  - United Nations agencies;
  - World Bank Group;
  - Asian Development Bank;
  - ASEAN;
  - CPLP;
  - NGOs;
  - Universities;
  - Local communities;
  - Private sector.

These partnerships provide funding, technical expertise, and capacity building.

We believe that by integrating TL as one of ASEAN members, it would create the opportunity for TL to learn and knowledge sharing among all ASEAN member.

Enhancing TL capabilities is the key to SDGs achievement.

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IV. Expected Impacts by 2030

If current projects continue successfully,

- Timor-Leste can expect:
  - Reduced poverty;
  - Improved healthcare;
  - Better education outcomes;
  - Greater food security;
  - Increased employment;
  - Improved infrastructure;
  - Better environmental protection;
  - Stronger institutions.

These improvements contribute directly to national sustainable development

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Challenges and Recommendations

Several **Challenges** still need attention:

- Limited financial resources;
- Technical capacity gaps;
- Climate change;
- Geographic isolation;
- Data availability;
- Institutional coordination.

Recommendations include:

- Increasing investment;
- Strengthening partnerships;
- Improving monitoring systems;
- Building local capacity;
- Expanding digital technologies;
- Encouraging community participation.

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VI. Conclusion and Call for Action

In conclusion, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Timor-Leste requires continuous collaboration, investment, and innovation.

The projects presented today demonstrate that sustainable development is possible when government, communities, and development partners work together.

With sustained commitment, Timor-Leste can make significant progress toward achieving the SDGs by 2030

- Timor-Leste has achieved its SDGs about **5% to 6%** with an overall Index score of **61.5%;**
- Around **40%** of Parliament Members are woman.
- All SDGs status are on TRACKS.

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Roadmap to 2030: from fragmented projects to integrated delivery

The next five years should prioritize projects with high SDGs spillover and strong implementation systems.

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Align & prioritize	**Scale service projects**	**Institutionalize maintenance**	**Accelerate livelihoods**	**Evaluate & sustain**
Map SDG gaps; cost portfolios; confirm municipal priorities.	Expand WASH, nutrition, health, school feeding and roads.	Budget operations; train municipal teams; strengthen procurement.	Scale SMEs, agriculture value chains and youth employment.	Audit outcomes; close gaps; transition pilots into systems.

Recommended top priorities:

1. Food security and nutrition
2. WASH and resilient infrastructure
3. Youth skills, jobs and SMEs
4. Governance, data and financing

Timor-Leste's prioritize projects that combine human capital, resilience and economic opportunity.

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Science Diplomacy for the Global South in achieving SDGs

TIMOR-LESTE: Has strong commitment in promoting Science, Technology and Innovation in the country to reach SDGs.

- Ministry of Higher Education, Sciences and Culture which promotes the development, modernization and quality of higher education, sciences and technology;
- National Institute of Sciences and Technology (INCT) promotes sciences and technology including scientific research in social and human sciences, exact and natural sciences, technology and innovation in the country;
- 19 higher academic institutions are established in the country:
  - 2 are public (National University of Timor-Leste – UNTL and Instituto Politecnico de Timor-Leste - IPTL) and;
  - 17 are private.
  - Each of them has own scientific research center which conducted the research activities in variety of sciences.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation: Diplomatic Studies Institute which provides diplomatic training and research on international relations.

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APPROVAL SHEET

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