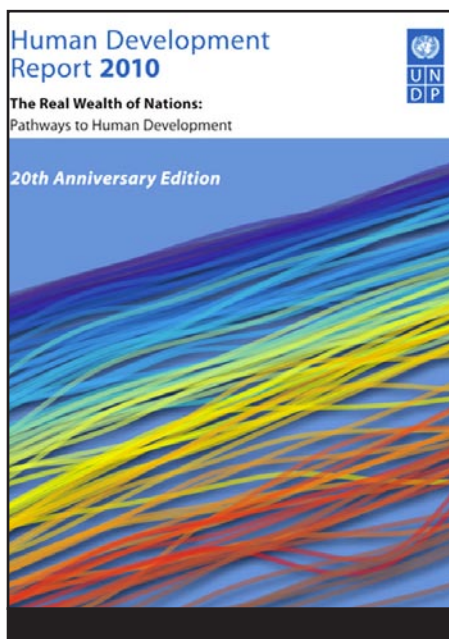




2010 Human Development Report: Asian countries lead development progress over 40 years



Most developing countries made dramatic, and often underestimated, progress in health, education and basic living standards in recent decades, a detailed new analysis of long-term Human Development Index (HDI) trends reveals.

The 20th anniversary edition of the UN Development Programme's Human Development Report was launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

The "Top 10 Movers" (those that improved most in HDI terms over the past 40 years) highlighted in the 2010 report were: Oman, China, Nepal, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Laos, Tunisia, South Korea, Algeria and Morocco.

East Asia and the Pacific had by far the strongest HDI performance of any region in the world, nearly doubling average HDI attainment over the past 40 years.

Timor-Leste's HDI value for 2010 positions the country 120th out of 169, constituting a rise of 11 places since 2005. Timor-Leste now ranks in the medium human development category.

UNDP Resident Representative in Timor-Leste, Finn Reske-Nielsen, congratulated the people of Timor-Leste on the results of the 2010 Human Development Report:

"This progress is a great achievement for the country. Especially given that Timor-Leste is a new nation while the global human development trends are being measured over a 40-year period. The hope is that these improvements will continue to be built upon, and all people will have the opportunity for a longer, healthier and more productive life".

The HDI is not designed to assess progress in human development over a short time period, because some of its component indicators do not change rapidly in response to policy changes. This is particularly so for mean years of schooling and life expectancy at birth. It is, however, useful to review HDI progress over the medium to long term. Between 2005 and 2010, Timor-Leste's HDI value increased from 0.428 to 0.502, an increase of 17%.

Between 2005 and 2010, Timor-Leste's life expectancy at birth increased by over two years, while mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling remained the same. Timor-Leste's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita increased by 228% during the same period.

The Human Development Reports and the HDI have challenged purely economic measurements of national achievement. They helped lay the conceptual foundation for the UN's Millennium Development Goals, calling for consistent global tracking of progress in health, education and overall living standards.

The 2010 HDI, which features some technical adjustments in method and indicators, including GNI and number of years of schooling, illustrates the wide range of development achievements in East Asia and the Pacific. It also introduces three new indices that capture multidimensional poverty, inequality and gender disparities.

In East Asia, most countries have higher income inequality today than was the case a few decades ago, due in part to widening gaps between rural areas and the rapidly industrializing cities.

The UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, said that although "people today are healthier, wealthier and better educated than before, there is much that countries can do to improve people's lives. This requires courageous local leadership as well as the continuing commitment of the international community".



» UNMIT Photo/ Martine Perret

Workshop code of ethics for journalists

The Council of Ministers held a one-day workshop on the country's national code of ethics for journalists at Mercado Lama, on 9 November 2010 in Dili.

During a speech at the opening of the workshop, Representative of the Council of Ministers Avelinho Coelho said the workshop was intended to share ideas among journalists to produce a national code of ethics for journalists.

Coelho affirmed that through this workshop journalists would produce a journalists' code of ethics to regulate their activities, guarantee the freedom and rights of the media, and define their obligations.

Press Club President, Domingos Saldanha called on Timorese journalists to work professionally and not be subject to bribery and corruption.

Otélío Ote, President of the Journalist Sindikatu of Timor-Leste said that codes of ethics for journalists are important in order to regulate journalists' actions, because the work of journalist impacts the public.

President of the Timorese Journalists Association, Virgílio Guterres said that a code of ethics is important for journalists, not for use as a law, but to provide a conscience and guide. He suggested that because journalists act as voice for the voiceless, their professionalism needs to be respected and ensured; this includes the responsibility of media outlets to provide journalists with fair salaries.



Training of civil security



» UNMIT Photo/ Bernardino Soares

The National Directorate for Public Buildings Security is part of the Secretary of State for Security. It is commonly referred to as 'Segurança Civil' and was established as an unarmed force on 26 February 2000. The directorate is responsible for ensuring security and access control in public buildings and facilities. It also regulates and monitors the establishment of private security companies. As part of the UN Security Sector Reform project (UNMIT/UNDP), this latest phase of the training was initiated in collaboration with the French Police and funded by the European Union.

Local soap making in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste now has its own hand-made soap. It has a different consistency from soap produced in a factory, but is of good value.

Timor Traditional House brand soaps are made by community groups in Lospalos. They only use materials that are grown in the garden.

Evaristo dos Santos, a member of Buka Fini, in Com Village, Lautem sub-district, which is one of the groups producing Timor Traditional House brand soaps said that:

"The process of making these soaps uses coconut oil, caustic soda and leaves from the garden such as guava, akapuku and papaya."

The Buka Fini group is established in eight villages in Lautem District. They began producing Timor Traditional House brand soaps in 2007.

Even though they only use materials from the garden, these soaps can cure some skin diseases. One member of the Buka Fini group in Pairara Village, Carmelita Duarte, said that:

"As a medicine these soaps can be used as treatment for skin diseases like ringworm. We can use these soaps to eliminate some facial stains."

The soap-making process is simple and uses traditional methods such as boiling leaves. The materials are mixed and whipped in a bucket and then poured into the soaps moulds. They are dried in the sun for one week and, after being saved for a month for further drying, are ready for use.

The Buka Fini group receives support from an organization called Community Support System / Aliansa Kolega Médiku in Timor-Leste (AFMET). AFMET staff person Juvensio Soares explained that:

"Before they [the group members] are promoted, they have to participate in training on community hygiene. They then promote hygiene by using the soaps they produce."

The soap is sold in local stores, and also used by the Ministry of Health through the Integrated Community Health Program (SISCA), to implement the hand-washing campaign to reduce diarrheal diseases in the community.

The soaps are sold for fifty cents. Timor Traditional House brand soap is one more initiative in which local people produce quality products and contribute to the development of this new country.

WFP/FAO Joint Crop Food Supply Assessment Mission



» UNMIT Photo/ Antoninho Bernardino

According to a WFP/FAO Joint Crop Food Supply Assessment Mission, food insecurity and under-nutrition are highly prevalent in Timor-Leste. About 20% of the population is food insecure and a further 23% is seen as being at high risk of becoming food insecure. The results of the Timor-Leste Demographic and Health Survey show that nearly one in two children under age five (44.8%) is considered to be underweight due to acute and chronic under-nutrition.

Anniversary of the Santa Cruz Massacre

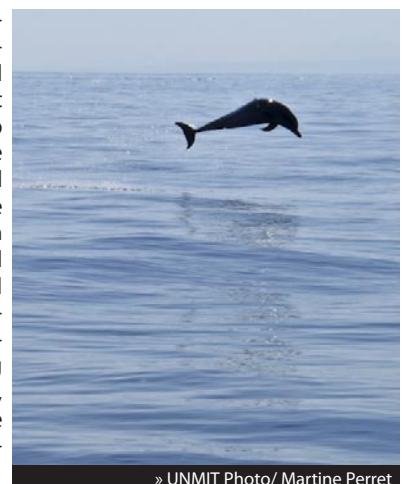


» UNMIT Photo/ Bernardino Soares

Thousands of people commemorated the 19th anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre on 12th November with a march from the Motael Church to Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili. Many mourners carried photographs of loved ones who died or who disappeared on 12 November 1991 when Indonesian military opened fire on a group of pro-independence supporters during a peaceful demonstration at the Santa Cruz Cemetery.

Marine Wildlife

In 2008, joint research between the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Timorese Government discovered that the deep water channel just off the Timor-Leste coast is a "global hotspot" for cetaceans. The seasonal eastwest migration of dolphins, porpoises and whales confirms what several cetologists have long suspected - that the deep oceanic waters off Timor, along the Wetar and Ombai Strait, are a major migratory route between the Pacific and Indian Ocean for marine wildlife.



» UNMIT Photo/ Martine Perret



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