

Memorandum of Understanding



District Administration of Covalima and the City of Port Phillip 2010



This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) reaffirms the Friendship between the District Administration of Covalima, Democratic Republic of Timor Leste and the City of Port Phillip, Australia.

In recognition of the aspirations of the people of Timor Leste and, in particular the District of Covalima to build their own democracy and take control of their future, a Friendship was established between the District of Covalima and the City of Port Phillip Council on 4th May 2000 and renewed in 2005. Now, after ten years of developing the Friendship, we are reaffirming our commitment to that Friendship and to the principles and values on which it is based for a further ten years.

The MoU acknowledges the ongoing community-to-community relationship that is already established through the Centro Comunidade Covalima, Commission and the City of Port Phillip's Friends of Suai Community Taskforce. We also look forward to working together as Timor-Leste establishes elected Local Government in Covalima.

The MoU demonstrates the District Administration of Covalima and the City of Port Phillip's commitment to principles of human rights, democracy, social justice, environmental sustainability and the importance of community participation. The agreement is signed on the understanding that it can be re-negotiated at any time at the wish of either the District Administration of Covalima or the City of Port Phillip referred to here as the 'the parties'.

Declaration

We 'the parties' declare our joint commitment to:

- A productive partnership built on mutual respect and friendship
- Furthering our partnership through an open and honest communication that understands and responds to the ideas and aspirations of both 'parties'
- Recognising, supporting and strengthening on the community-to-community relationships that are already established
- Transparent processes to ensure that both parties keep the Centro Comunidade Covalima, Commission and the City of Port Phillip's Friends of Suai Community Taskforce are continuously informed of all developments and activities that occur between the two parties.

The underlying principles of the Friendship are:

- Strengthening a relationship that respects the community planning and decision making processes of both parties
- Acknowledging and respecting the different cultures while aiming to find a way of working that makes each party feel comfortable and inspired
- Understandings that both parties have knowledge, skills, ideas, values and experiences that can be exchanged to the benefit of both communities
- Aspiring to a commitment to honest and open communication.

This MoU commits the two parties to:

- An exchange of knowledge and skills
- Exploring new avenues and innovative ways of sharing information and skills
- Continuing to work together to identify key areas of common interest and exchange
- Maintaining frequent communication between the parties
- Consulting widely with their community.

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Sr Teofilo do Carmo.

Date: 18-10-2010

Sr Teofilo do Carmo
Deputy District Administrator
District of Covalima
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Sr Alberto de Jesus Barros.

Date: 18/10/2010

Witness:

Sr Alberto de Jesus Barros
Acting Coordinator Covalima Community
Centre, Suai
District of Covalima

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Cr Frank O'Connor.

Date: 18/10/2010

Cr Frank O'Connor
Mayor
City of Port Phillip
Australia

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Mr Bill Armstrong.

Date: 18-10-10

Witness:

Mr Bill Armstrong, AO
Chair
Friends of Suai Community Taskforce
City of Port Phillip
Australia