



Press Release

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ENCOURAGED IN THE YOUTH OF TIMOR-LESTE

20 Jan 2005/ Dare; Twenty-four teachers from across Timor-Leste will today complete a 2-week training programme which will enable them to teach a new training package “Hatene Kona ba Negosiu” (Know about Business) to Secondary school students. A graduation ceremony will be held on Friday 20 January in Dare.

Up to 14,000 secondary school students complete their studies and enter the workforce every year, and according to the 2004 census, the unemployment rate amongst youth is 26%. Equipping school-leavers with skills and ideas for developing their own business will help stimulate the economy and keep youth unemployment rates from growing.

“Hatene Kona ba Negosiu” is a business awareness programme designed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for use in vocational education at secondary technical schools and training institutions. It aims to provide youth with opportunities to think about entrepreneurship and to consider their future professional career as entrepreneurs or small business owners. The “Hatene Kona ba Negosiu” training material has been fully adapted to the Timor-Leste context by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group.

The twenty-four teachers, who are completing the training today, will teach the “Hatene Kona ba Negosiu” programme at 16 technical schools of the Ministry of Education and Culture and 3 schools of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as part of the national curriculum. The teachers will also teach the course at the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion and the Ministry of Development training centres.

The programme has been introduced by the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion and the UNDP/ILO STAGE Programme, in close cooperation with the Inter-Ministerial Working Group, which is comprised of the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Development, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The “Hatene Kona ba Negosiu” course lays the foundation of two other advanced initiatives: the “Buka Ideia Negosiu” (Generate Your Business Idea) and “Komesa ita nia Negosiu” (Start your Business) training programmes, developed by the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion with support from the STAGE Programme. These three training programmes establish a powerful link between formal education, vocational training and the labour market.

This initiative is a part of the UNDP/ILO STAGE programme, which is funded by the European Commission (EC).

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