

## SEMINAR: Promoting Our Culture Lautem Cultural Festival 2 – 5 pm, Friday April 5, 2013, Meeting Room, Education Offices, Rua Sentral, Lospalos.

The Festival and associated seminar have been organized to promote culture, especially the endangered cultural heritage of the Lautem district, to encourage the new generation to value and maintain their distinct heritage into the future. Presentations will be made by professionals with expertise in diverse fields including anthropology, art, politics and research who will speak from international, national and local perspectives. The seminar will be relevant to all those with interests in the role of culture in Timorese life today, including students, teachers, researchers, policy-makers, cultural development professionals, visitors and tourists. The program includes opportunities for questions and discussion from participants. All welcome.

MC: Paulino dos Santos, Festival Committee

**2 pm:** Welcome: Committee President and Representative of Districtt Administrator Sr. Jose Monteiro *Response from* Sra. Isabel Ximenes, Secretary of State, Art and Culture

**2.15 - 2.35 pm:** *National Policy about Art and Culture* Sra. Isabel Ximenes, Secretary of State, Art and Culture

**2.35- 2.50 pm**: How can we promote and preserve our cultural heritage for the future? Mericio Akara, Diretor Exekutiv, Luta Hamutuk, Dili.

2.50 - 3.10 pm: Snack

3.10 – 3.25 pm: Performance: Dance Group Sangar Alegria, Lospalos

**3.25- 3.45 pm:** *Promoting culture through contemporary art* Maria Madeira, artist and PhD researcher.

**3.45 – 4.10 pm:** *Fataluku Cultural Heritage Project* Many Hands International Research team Justino Valentim, Maria dos Santos, Frederico Caetano, Ildefonso da Silva.

4.10- 4.20 pm: Film: Our Culture, Many Hands International

**4.20- 5.00 pm:** *Questions and discussion* Moderator: Octavio Dokarmo. Note-taker: Tomas Mariano Pinto.

## **Speaker biographies**

**Sra. Isabel Ximenes**, Sekretariu Estadu, Arte no Kultura. has a degree in Management (Academy of Secretary and Management in Jakarta-Indonesia), Post Graduate, Development Studies, (Massey University, New Zealand) and Master od Sociology and Social Anthropology, (University of Hull, UK). Since 1988, Isabel has worked for ETADEP, the only local NGO at the time in Timor-Leste; as Executive Secretary and Grants Manager for projects funded by USAID, AusAID, Canada, and New Zealand Aid in Timor-Leste. She also worked as Community Management Coordinator, then Gender Specialist and later as Training Coordinator for a Water Supply And Sanitation Project, run by AusAID. Later she worked for a consortium of International NGOs as Senior Program Manager, then as Team Leader of the Health Department of International NGO International Rescue Committee. Isabel has also lectured at the Institute of Business in Dili, Timor-Leste. Before becoming the Secretary of State for Arts and Culture in 2012, she was the Coordinator-General for the Expo 2012 in Yeosu, Korea and advisor for the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry.

Mericio Akara, Diretor Exekutivu, Luta Hamutuk, Dili. and trainadu anthropologist.

**Maria Madeira**, husi Gleno district, Ermera, has lived in Portugal and Australia and has now returned to contribute to Timor's recovery, rebuilding and development. She has a B.A. Fine Arts, a Graduate Diploma of Education and a B.A. in Political Science and is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy - Art at Curtin University, Australia. She has worked in Western Australia as a high school art teacher, visual artist and cultural advisor for several arts and culture institutions and organisations. Maria has held more than fifteen exhibitions of her painting, sculpture, drawings, mixed media collages and installation pieces, across Australia, Portugal, Brazil, Macau and East Timor. Her main concern as an artist, teacher and cultural adviser is to convey East Timor's culture and traditions to other societies – and viceversa. It is her strong belief that art and culture are the spirit and soul of a nation.

Justino Valentim and research team Maria dos Santos (interviewer), Frederico Caetano (photographer), Ildefonso da Silva (camera operator). Justino Valentim is a cultural leader of Lospalos and national hero of the resistance. Trained as a schoolteacher, Justino was instrumental in Timor- Leste's fight for independence. Since independence, he has been researching and recording Fataluku culture and advocating for its preservation. He is the founder of the Council for Fataluku Culture and instrumental in the current development of Fataluku as a written language (in collaboration with UNESCO and the University of Melbourne). He has occupied a number of high-level positions within the public service and NGOs, including as Sub-District Administrator of Lospalos. He leads the team of researchers employed by Many Hands to research the endangered cultural heritage of Fataluku people.

This seminar is presented by Festival Seminar Committee: Octavio Dokarmo, Paulino dos Santos, Tomas Mariano and supported by Many Hands International.

## The seminar will be in Tetun but interpretation into English will be available.