



Australian Government



**TIMOR-LESTE – AUSTRALIA
ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS
CONFERENCE
FULL PROGRAM**

June 11 – 12, 2024



11 June: Public Lecture

Location: GMN Multi-Purpose Hall [See map link [here](#)]

Time	Event Description	Key Personnel
14:15 – 16:15 pm	<p>Public Lecture: Timor-Leste, ASEAN and the World</p> <p>Hear Professor Hal Hill, eminent professor from the Australian National University, Dr João Mariano Saldanha, President of JSU, and Ms Maria da Silva, Economic Advisor at PROSIVU, discuss economic trends in Timor-Leste, in context of the world economy and opportunities through ASEAN membership.</p> <p>N.B. This is a public event that is optional for all conference attendees.</p>	
14:15 pm	Registration	Guests
14:30 pm	MC Introduction: Welcome to the public lecture	Ms Jorania Ferreira Alves
14:35 pm	Introduction and scene setting	Mr Guteriano Neves, PROSIVU Research and Analytics Coordinator
14:40 pm	Professor Hal Hill: <i>Timor-Leste, ASEAN and the World</i>	Professor Hal Hill, H.W. Arndt Professor Emeritus of Southeast Asian Economies, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
15:25 pm	Response from leading Timorese economists	Ms Maria da Silva, PROSIVU Economic Adviser Dr João Mariano Saldanha, President of JSU
15:45 pm	Questions and Answers: A moderated discussion <i>N.B. Audience questions and comments to be submitted electronically</i>	Mr Guteriano Neves
16:15 pm	Event closes	Ms Jorania Ferreira Alves

11 June: Opening Ceremony and Welcome Networking Dinner

Location: Sky Bar and Panorama Restaurant, Timor Plaza [See map link [here](#)]

Time	Event Description	
17:00 – 21:00 pm	<p>Opening Ceremony and Welcome Networking Dinner <i>Invitation only</i></p> <p><i>The opening ceremony for the Timor-Leste-Australia Economic and Business Conference will be hosted by Australia’s Ambassador to Timor-Leste and the Timor-Leste Vice Prime Minister. It will feature local culture through traditional dance and music. It will be followed by an optional informal networking dinner.</i></p>	<p>Hosts:</p> <p><i>Her Excellency, the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Ms Caitlin Wilson</i></p> <p><i>His Excellency, the Vice Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Sr. Francisco Kalbuadi Lay</i></p>
17:00 pm	Registration and welcome gift to international delegates	
17:15 pm	MC remarks and opening prayer	
17:25 pm	Cultural performance	
17:35 pm	Welcome remarks from Her Excellency, the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Ms Caitlin Wilson	
17:45 pm	Welcome remarks from Sr. Gally Soares Araújo, Vice President of the Timor-Leste Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
17:50 pm	Welcome remarks from Sr. Sakib Awan, Australia’s Business Champion to Timor-Leste	
17:55 pm	Welcome remarks from His Excellency, the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister Coordinator for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment, Sr. Francisco Kalbuadi Lay	
18:00 pm	Opening of the Timor-Leste - Australia Economic and Business Conference	
18:05 pm	Group photo and conference delegates invited to join optional networking dinner and drinks	
21:00 pm	Event close	

12 June: Timor-Leste – Australia Economic and Business Conference - Morning Agenda

Location: Elizabeth Room, City 8 Conference Centre [See map link [here](#)]

Time	Event Description	Key Personnel
8:00 am	Conference registration and trade fair opens	
9:00 am	MC introduction and opening remarks	MC: Mr. Alberto ‘Bepi’ Piedade
9:05 am	Welcome to dignitaries and conference delegates	Her Excellency, the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Ms Caitlin Wilson
9:10 am	Welcome and vision for Australia’s economic partnership with Timor-Leste	Mr Will Nankervis, Assistant Secretary - Southeast Asia Economic, Communications and Analytics Branch
9:15 am	Welcome from Australia’s Business Champion to Timor-Leste	Mr Sakib Awan, Australia’s Business Champion
9:25 am	Overview of investing and doing business in Timor-Leste	Sr. Arcanjo da Silva, Executive Director of TradeInvest
9:40 am	<p>Keynote Panel: Doing Business in Timor-Leste – Lessons and Opportunities</p> <p><i>Discover the unique opportunities and challenges of investing in one of Southeast Asia’s most exciting emerging markets. Industry experts will share insights on navigating the business landscape, successful strategies, and the potential for growth in Timor-Leste. Don’t miss this chance to learn from experienced professionals, hear their inspiring stories of success and explore new investment possibilities.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Ms Rachel Jolly, Australian Embassy to Timor-Leste</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Sr. Gally Soares Araújo, Vice President of the Timor-Leste Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>Mr Sakib Awan, Australia’s Business Champion</p> <p>Mr Jean Vezina, Co-Founder and CEO of Caltech Group</p> <p>Ms Claudia Ximenes, Founder of Vera Juice</p> <p>Mr Alan Jape, Executive Chairman of Timor Plaza</p>
10:30 am	Morning tea	
10:45 am	<p>Financial Services Panel: Financial Products and Services in Timor-Leste</p> <p><i>This panel will explore the evolving financial landscape of Timor-Leste. Experts will discuss innovative financial products, investment opportunities, and strategies for navigating regulatory challenges. Gain valuable insights into Timor-Leste’s financial sector from industry leaders and professionals and how the financial sector can accelerate business growth and investment.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Mr Bernard Harborne, World Bank Country Representative for Timor-Leste</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Ms Bernadette Shaw, Country Head, ANZ Timor-Leste</p> <p>Ms Stephanie Golda, Investment Officer, Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility</p> <p>Sr. Antonio Vitor, CEO of BNCTL Timor-Leste</p> <p>Ms Perosi Su’a, Managing Director, Federal Insurance</p>
11:20 am	Group photo and breakout for keynote and panel streams	

12 June: Timor-Leste – Australia Economic and Business Conference - Breakout Agenda (Option A)

Location: Elizabeth Room, City 8 Conference Centre

Time	Event Description	Key Personnel
11:30 am	<p>Presentation: Agribusiness, manufacturing and trade opportunities in Timor-Leste</p> <p><i>Discover the potential of Timor-Leste's emerging sectors at the presentation, "Agribusiness, Manufacturing, and Trade Opportunities in Timor-Leste." Professor Brett Inder will unpack what we know about opportunities and strategies for entering these growing markets. Learn about the key factors driving growth and how to leverage them for business success in Timor-Leste.</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Professor Brett Inder, Professor, Econometrics and Business Statistics, Monash University</p>
11:45 am	<p>Panel: Agribusiness, manufacturing, and trade</p> <p><i>Join this panel discussion to explore the dynamic growth of these sectors. Experts will highlight the impact of Timor-Leste's efforts to join the WTO and ASEAN, enhancing trade prospects and investment opportunities. Gain insights into strategies for success in this evolving market and the benefits of regional integration.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. David Orr, NT Government's Director International Engagement</p> <p>Panellists: Ms Ervina Soares Pinto, Director General at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry Sr. Rui Manuel Castro, Vice President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr Bobby Lay, Executive Director, Timor Global Mr Ameta da Costa, Founder and Owner of Kafe Atsabe</p>
12:30 pm	<p>Lunch and trade fair</p>	
13:30 pm	<p>Panel: Resources in Timor-Leste</p> <p><i>Join us for a panel discussion on business opportunities in Timor-Leste's resources sector. Experts will explore the region's untapped potential, investment prospects, regulatory landscape, and sustainable practices. Gain valuable insights into how Timor-Leste is positioning itself as a key player in the regional and global mining and resources industry. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with industry leaders and innovators.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Sr. Carlos Liborio Frans Alves, Executive Director, Legal and Commercial, ANP</p> <p>Panellists: Sr. Rafael Denilson de Araujo, President of ANM Sr. Jose Goncalves, Chairman of Murak Rai Timor Ms. Reinalda Pires, Santos Engagement Coordinator</p>
14:15 pm	<p>Panel: Construction and Engineering in Timor-Leste</p> <p><i>Join a panel discussion to explore opportunities in some of the fastest growing sectors within Timor-Leste. Industry experts and insiders will discuss current projects, regulatory landscape, and strategies for successful investments. Gain valuable insights into the growing infrastructure needs, the shipping and logistics support that underpins the industry, and the opportunities available in Timor-Leste's burgeoning market.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Professor Brett Inder, Monash University</p> <p>Panellists: Mr Sidonio Freitas, Vice President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr Kaushal Rohilla, General Manager CMA Mr. Eric Stokes, Operations Manager, RMS Construction and Engineering</p>
15:00 pm	<p>Afternoon tea</p>	

12 June: Timor-Leste – Australia Economic and Business Conference - Breakout Agenda (Option B)

Location: Leadership Room, City 8 Conference Centre

Time	Event Description	Key Personnel
11:30 am	<p>Presentation: Labour Mobility Programs in Timor-Leste</p> <p><i>A representative of the Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment will brief the private sector on labour mobility programs. Learn how these programs facilitate workforce development, enhance skills, and create employment opportunities both locally and abroad. We will then have an Australian employer describe their experiences of employing Timorese workers under the PALMS scheme.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Penny Roberts, Australian Embassy Presenters: Ms. Imelda Sequeira Alves, Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment Mr. Geraldo Ximenes, Country Engagement Manager, Pacific Labour Facility Mr. Chris Hayward, Carers NT</p>
12:00 pm	<p>Panel: Training and Skills Development in Timor-Leste</p> <p><i>Skills are key to successful economic growth, employment and investment. Training leaders from Timor-Leste and Australia will discuss how Timor-Leste’s vocational and technical education and training sector is addressing skill needs for employment in Timor-Leste and abroad, and impacts of, and opportunities for, partnership between Timor-Leste and Australian trainers and training institutions, and industries and employers.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Ms Nicki Baird, Australia-Pacific Training Coalition Executive Director Panellists: Mr Simao Tito Baretto, National Centre for Employment and Vocational Training Mr Januario Mok, East Timor Development Agency Director Mr. Michael Hamilton, Chief Executive TAFE, Charles Darwin University</p>
12:45 pm	Lunch and trade fair	
13:45 pm	<p>Presentation: Cultural and Eco-tourism – Lessons from Indigenous Australian Business</p> <p><i>Ms. Helen Martin will discuss the challenges faced in establishing her business and how both government and community supported the growth of her small business in the remote Australian outback.</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Ms. Helen Martin, Owner of Banubanu Wilderness Retreat</p>
14:00 pm	<p>Panel: Tourism and Hospitality – Emerging Service Sectors with Growth Potential in Timor-Leste</p> <p><i>Join this panel to delve into Timor-Leste’s burgeoning tourism industry. Experts will explore investment opportunities, highlight successful ventures, and discuss strategies to harness the potential of Timor-Leste’s unique cultural and natural attractions. Learn about current initiatives underway and to engage with this promising market.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Mr Drew Johnson, Market Development Facility Country Director Panellists: Ms Ravi Shekhawat, General Manager, Intrepid Travel Mr Antonio Da Silva, Director General of Ministry of Tourism Ms Maria Noronha, Manager of Eco Discovery Timor-Leste</p>
15:00 pm	Afternoon tea	

12 June: Timor-Leste – Australia Economic and Business Conference - Afternoon Agenda

Location: Elizabeth Room, City 8 Conference Centre

Time	Event Description	Key Personnel
Plenary Session		
15:30 pm	<p>Investing in Timor-Leste: Economic Trends and Opportunities</p> <p><i>Hear from speakers with insightful perspectives on Timor-Leste and its growing economy. Dr Laura Bateman will explore investment opportunities for Timor-Leste focused on harnessing Timor-Leste’s competitive advantages and promoting specialty, niche and premium products and services. Sr. Helder Lopes will then provide reflections and his expert view on economic trends in Timor-Leste.</i></p>	<p>Facilitator: Mr Guteriano Neves</p> <p>Presenters: Sr. Helder Lopes, Governor of the Central Bank of Timor-Leste Dr Laura Bateman, Equity Economics</p>
16:30 pm	<p>Conference Reflections: Summary of Key Messages Takeaways</p> <p><i>Reflections on the day, key learnings and ways forward.</i></p>	Professor Brett Inder, Monash University
16:50 pm	Closing Remarks	Sr. Gally Soares Araújo, Vice President of the Timor-Leste Chamber of Commerce and Industry
17:00 pm	Conference proceedings close	MC: Mr. Alberto ‘Bepi’ Piedade
17:30 pm	Trade fair closes	

12 June: Timor-Leste – Australia Economic and Business Conference - Gala Dinner

Location: Hotel Timor Banquet Hall [See map link [here](#)]

Time	Description
18:30 pm	Registration and welcome drinks
19:00 pm	MC welcome
19:10 pm	Timorese cultural performance
19:20 pm	Welcome remarks from Her Excellency, the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Caitlin Wilson
19:25 pm	Speech by Australia's Business Champion to Timor-Leste, Sr. Sakib Awan
19:30 pm	Speech by CCI-TL Vice-President, Sr. Gally Soares Araújo
19:35 pm	Speech by His Excellency, President José Manuel Ramos-Horta
19:45 pm	Launch of the Timor-Leste Australia Business Council and official photograph
19:55 pm	Dinner and live entertainment
20:35 pm	Fashion show and traditional <i>tebe tebe</i> dance
22:00 pm	Close