Start of Training for Roads Development and Management:
Support for Timor-Leste's Infrastructure Development through Indonesia – Japan Partnership

As a means to support Timor-Leste's effort in developing its infrastructure development and maintenance, the Ministry of Public Works (MOPW) – Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Infrastructure – Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed an agreement to implement series of training activities for Timor-Leste personnel's capacity building. The first training will be held at the Institute for Road Engineering in Bandung, Indonesia, starting from January 31st, 2011. This will be the first time for Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Japan through JICA to collaborate in implementing so-called triangular cooperation. These cooperation activities will be implemented for two years until November 2012. The MOPW, which has many experiences in carrying out Japanese ODA projects in the road sector in Indonesia, will be accepting engineers and technicians from Timor-Leste as part of the training activities. Following which, this will be complemented by dispatching Indonesian road experts – who had actively taken part in past Japan-Indonesia Technical Cooperation – to Timor-Leste to give technical advice in practical application in the field.

As one of the youngest countries in Southeast (SE) Asia, the socio-economic development of Timor-Leste is important in enhancing the regional security not only of the region, but also of Asia as a whole. One of the main and uneasy development issues it urgently needs to tackle is infrastructure
development and maintenance. Although area-wise it is considered a small country with only around 14,900 km², road network is still a crucial means of connecting the whole country with a population of around 1.1 million people. In rainy season, many roads are affected with sediment disasters, thus isolating many regions. Although various assistance and projects have been extended or underway, good maintenance capacity of the roads is needed in sustaining the quality of roads.

Since Timor-Leste’s formalization in 2002, JICA has been supporting the capacity building for the management of damaged roads as well as the development of management guideline (manual). On the other hand, JICA’s support towards Indonesia can be traced back to the 1960s, starting from the construction of highways and main roads of the Jakarta metropolitan area to the capacity development of the MOPW in managing the road infrastructures. The extensive knowledge and experience accumulated by Indonesia in the road sector may be applicable by Timor-Leste in upgrading the level of its engineers and technicians. Moreover, the still common utilization of Indonesian language, close physical distance, as well as similar geographic condition in relations to road development approach and applied technology are deemed more efficient and effective in comparison with direct training by Japan.

With its recent economic growth rate, Indonesia has been categorized as a middle income country. Indonesia has been collaborating with Japan and taking a more active role in the international development through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC-TC). The training activities of Timor-Leste’s personnel in the road sector are also part of the SSC; utilizing JICA’s extensive human network (especially in the engineering subject) and knowledge in terms of social-environmental consideration. The training activities are endeavored to bring significant effect to Timor-Leste’s road sector development, especially as the cooperation is build upon stable and friendly relationship between Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

1. **Date**
   January 31, 2011 (Mon)

2. **Venue**
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