



# Friendship School Project Information for schools 2008

Sheet 3

## Focus for Term 1

### **Registration**

Check that your school Bursar has renewed your school's FSP registration for 2008.

### **A Joint Commitment**

Teachers and students work together to ensure that the FSP membership and resulting learning about Timor-Leste remains active within the school community. You may also be able to involve parents from the school's parent group or association. Ensure all involved understand FSP's Vision, Mission and Guiding Values. Make contact with other schools involved in FSP (contact the FSP office for details).

### **Student Leadership**

Establish which students will be involved and responsible for organising school based FSP activities. Schools can follow a number of models: The FSP student group may sit within a specific year level; on the Junior School Council; SRC or Social Justice Group. A new group may need to be formed to ensure that FSP is considered throughout the school year.

### **Plan your school's FSP awareness raising activities for the year**

Plan to have a number of events spread out throughout the year, which will reinforce the students' learning about the country of Timor-Leste, its people and the school's general understanding of their membership of FSP. Such events could involve eating Timorese food for lunch, or dressing in the colours of the Timorese flag. They may also coincide with important days in the Timorese calendar, such as Timor-Leste's Independence Day on 20 May, or the National Hero's Day on 7 December.

At these events, you may also fundraise to support resources for schools in Timor-Leste.

### **Create cards/ write postcards or letters/ make Friendship Flags**

Begin creating Easter cards, write postcards or other forms of greetings (in Tetun and English) in time for Easter. Remember to use pictures and drawings, as this form of communication can transcend language differences. A small string of Friendship Flags could also be made.

### **Curriculum Units**

Does your school use FSP's Timor-Leste Curriculum Units? Using these is an effective way of ensuring that many of the students at school are exposed to learning opportunities based on the study of Timor-Leste. Explore and identify which Unit/s are suitable for your school. You may choose to pick exercises from the units, or start at the beginning and undertake all activities suggested.

### **Register for the 2008 FSP Student Forum**

Held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April, at Xavier College, Burke Hall Campus, Kew, Melbourne, the registration details will be sent out to your schools in late February.

### **Displays**

Use your school foyer and/or classrooms to display the FSP calendar and map, provided in your membership/annual mail out pack. If you have received an album, letters, cards or a banner from your School Partner, display these in a prominent place. You may choose to start a scrap book of information on Timor-Leste.



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## Focus for Term 2

### **FSP Student Forum - Friday 18th April, at Xavier College, Burke Hall Campus, Kew, Melbourne**

This annual event encourages schools within the FSP membership to come together, learn from each other, and experience Timorese culture.

- Prepare a school display to bring to the Student Forum, outlining your involvement and enthusiasm for FSP and Timor-Leste.
- Encourage students to anticipate this inspiring event, and support them on their return from the event, to share what they have learnt with their class and wider school community.

### **Curriculum Units**

There are many areas of the school curriculum that allow schools in Australia to use Timor-Leste as an example and to contextualize issues that are part of the education requirements. Examples within the FSP Timor-Leste Curriculum Units are:

- Our neighbours in South East Asia
- History of a developing democracy
- Geography studies of a tropical climate
- Economic issues related to growing and selling coffee

### **School Events –some ideas**

Hold an event to celebrate Timor-Leste's Independence Day on 20<sup>th</sup> May (2002). You could focus on sharing information and raising awareness within your school community about Timor-Leste's history and long struggle for freedom and self government.

Hold a Timor-Leste School Assembly where each class presents information or a cultural activity relevant to Timor-Leste. Have a guest speaker join in from your local Timor-Leste Friendship Group (see [www.vlga.org.au](http://www.vlga.org.au)) and/or a member of the local Timorese community.

Decide which events you will raise funds at alongside your aim of raising awareness. You could invite the local press to attend and celebrate your school's involvement and achievements with FSP. Let us know if you receive any media.

### **Travel in Timor-Leste**

As the dry season approaches, travel within the 13 Districts becomes possible again. FSP staff in Timor-Leste begin making visits to School Partners and sending School Visit Reports to Australian School Partners.

### **School Members**

Term 2 is a great time to consider whether your school would like to extend its membership and become linked with a school in Timor-Leste (become a School Partner). You will need to identify how your school will maintain a commitment as a School Partner for a minimum of three years. Please contact the FSP Melbourne Office or talk with your Volunteer School Liaison Officer for further information.

### **Important Dates**

Friday 18 April 2008 - FSP Student Forum  
Xavier College, Burke Hall Campus, Kew, Melbourne.



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## Focus for Term 3

### **Plan your School Album/ Banner (For School Partners)**

With your FSP student group (or within a year level), start making your major project to exchange for the year. This may be an Album or a Banner to send to your School Partner. Gather the same resources that you used to send with your completed project to your School Partner, so that your School Partner are able to reciprocate. In your parcel, identify which school you are an FSP School Partner with and send to:

*Projectu Eskola Belun  
c/o The Alola Foundation  
PO Box 3  
Dili  
Timor-Leste  
Via Darwin, Australia.*

(Let the FSP Office in Melbourne know when you have sent the parcel.)

### **School Activities**

- Develop activities that assist students to understand daily life of a student in Timor-Leste.
- Introduce basic Tetun words and phrases using your school kit phrase book.
- Encourage Students collect news items or articles of interest.

### **Fundraising**

FSP encourages its school membership to fundraise as part of their yearly awareness raising activities, so that appropriate school resources can be purchased by FSP in Timor-Leste to support the educational development of Timorese students. We do not have an amount we expect schools to raise, and are happy to receive whatever your community is able to offer.

If you do hold a specific event to raise funds, try to incorporate learning about Timor-Leste in some way. For example, a gold coin donation can be used to form the shape of a crocodile, and the story of the Island of Timor and the Crocodile could also be told.

Send the amount you have raised, by the end of Term 3, to the FSP Melbourne Office, making cheques payable to "AETFSP Ltd".



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## Focus for Term 4

### **Mai Ita Festa! –Let's party together!**

Celebrate your school's involvement with FSP and your contribution to schools in Timor-Leste in 2008. Organise end of year celebrations as part of project activities. Present Certificates of Appreciation to all those involved in the FSP Student groups. Share your successes with the FSP Office via school newsletter reviews or photos of events.

### **Curriculum Involvement**

Review your work on Timor-Leste Curriculum units and share these with the FSP office and other schools.

### **School Activities**

This term can prompt questions amongst your student community about Christmas, and how it is celebrated in Timor-Leste. Create Christmas Cards to send to your friends in time for Christmas.

### **Travel in Timor-Leste**

Now the wet season is approaching, explore what happens to schools and communities outside of Dili in the wet session when roads become impassable? What is life like in a remote village in Timor-Leste at any stage in the year?

### **Important Dates in Timor-Leste**

Consider holding your celebrations on one or more of the important dates in the Timorese calendar:

- 12<sup>th</sup> November - National Youth Day in Timor-Leste
- 28<sup>th</sup> November -Independence Day (1975)
- 7<sup>th</sup> December - National Heroes Day

### **Planning for 2009**

- Consolidate projects and key learning about Timor-Leste.
- Begin planning your activities for 2009.
- Share what you have learnt with the wider school community
- Plan how you will recruit new students to your FSP student group.

### **Important Dates**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Curriculum Unit Workshop

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Melbourne.