



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

**MESSAGE BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

New Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Díli

29 September 2009

Your Excellency, Ambassador Mr Fu Yuancong

Honourable Mrs Yuancong

Distinguished guests

Dear Chinese friends,

It is a real honour and great privilege for me to stand before you today to say a few words on this special occasion when we celebrate the sixtieth birthday of the Foundation of the New China.

The changes that have been taking place in China are absolutely remarkable, and one cannot be unmoved by what China represents to the Asian region and to the entire world.

For us the Timorese, who live in a small and young nation with only a million people, it is incredible to look towards the giant nation of China, the most populous in the world, and observe its great progress and achievements, particularly in lifting many millions of people out of poverty and growing one of the largest and strongest economies in the world.

The path travelled by the People's Republic of China, therefore, provides an important reference to Timor-Leste, as well as to the world. China's strength, and superior economic management in responding to the global financial crisis, is pulling the world out of recession. And China's global investments, and its cooperation and support of development in the poorest of countries, is making a unique and invaluable contribution to humanity.

Timor-Leste, along with the world, benefits greatly from China's positive engagement with countries across the globe. The contribution of China that results from its policies of promoting peace and development, make it at the dawn of this century that has barely begun, a force for good.

In coming decades, as China moves towards becoming the largest economy in the world, its growing prosperity and commitment to development will both guide and teach us all. China's domestic accomplishments in promoting unity and its pursuit of economic growth for the benefit of its People, is matched by its contribution to international diplomacy and development.

More and more, China's successes are world successes. The benefits of China's progress and reforms, which have fuelled their economy's development, are not limited to their own Country or even to the Asian region – they cross continents and oceans, bringing hope to countries that need it the most, including importantly African countries undergoing reconstruction.

China's direct investment in infrastructure projects, as well as other critical sectors, is evident throughout Africa including Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, the Central African Republic and Angola – just to mention some examples from a long list – and it reflects China's commitment to promoting peace, cooperation and development in post-conflict and developing countries.

In addition to the transfer of skills, medical assistance as well as often peacekeeping that these engagements provide, these public and private investments in productive economic sectors lead invariably to increased opportunities and the improvement in living standards of the populations of Africa.

China has, through various partnerships with many nations, provided food to the starving, education to children, health to the sick and major infrastructure to support the development of the private sector and promote economic growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

China has spared no effort in Timor-Leste as well, hence the ties of friendship that we have been strengthening. It would also do well to remember that the People's Republic of China was the first Country to accredit its Embassy in Dili, and that it provided us financial, institutional, technical and training assistance, as well as support in the construction of infrastructure and the development of our agricultural sector. In view of all this contribution, we seek to continue to learn from, and alongside, China – as well as seek new strategic partnerships together.

I thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for their ongoing and generous support and I am very pleased to be here in this new Embassy in Dili. It is a significant occasion in the relationship between our two countries and symbolises the depth and strength of our friendship.

By serving as a reference to small and poor countries such as Timor-Leste, and in captivating our interest and gaining our admiration – China also becomes a recipient of the hopes of the countries in reconstruction.

Clearly we wish to continue strengthening the friendship and cooperation between our two Peoples and in the coming days of 16, 17 and 18 of October, I will be in Sichuan, to participate in the *Western China International Economy and Trade Fair*, and I will have the opportunity to have a working meeting with the Premier, His Excellency Wen Jiabao.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At this time of celebration in China, I must praise the vision and leadership of His Excellency President Hu Jintao. The Government of Timor-Leste shares his international vision - that all peoples in the world enjoy the same development opportunities and that, by working together, we can overcome challenges and promote peace and development for all humanity.

I would like to conclude by extending my heartfelt congratulations to the Chinese citizens living in Timor-Leste, in China and throughout the world for the amazing 60 years they have had since the Foundation of the People's Republic of China.

Gong-xi nin, wo quin-ai de Zhong-guo peng-you men!

(Congratulations my dear Chinese friends)

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

29 September 2009