



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE RECEPTION AT THE
TIMOR-LESTE PAVILION IN EXPO SHANGHAI 2010

SHANGHAI
29 October 2010

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honour and with enormous satisfaction that I stand in this pavillion today, for the first time, in this magnificent city, as one of the millions of visitors that have had the privilege of visiting this World Expo.

And so, allow me first and foremost to thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for the invitation to take part in the closing ceremonies of Expo Shanghai and also for the warm hospitality that has been extended to me.

From what I have been hearing throughout the past six months, I know I can safely say that this World Expo has been a resounding success. This success is a result of the Expo's efficient organisation, its topical and important theme and the beauty and innovation of the country pavilions; along with the cooperation and collaboration achieved here between nations, which of course included between the Chinese authorities and Timor-Leste.

I would also like to thank the Chinese Government for its generous assistance to enable Timor-Leste to have its People and its Country represented in such a globally significant event. It is the first time we are represented at a World Expo as an Independent Nation.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With my visit to our Pavilion, I admit to feelings of joy and some satisfaction. To be able to share 'a day in Timor-Leste – from the sunrise in the West to

the sunset in the East' with thousands of citizens from around the globe, reminds us that our dream of Independence was never in vain.

The number of visitors to our small Timor-Leste Pavilion - more than 4.5 million - greatly exceeded all our expectations. Over four million people now know a little more about our history and our culture, as well as the beauty of our natural environment.

Timor-Leste is in the stage of Nation building, a path we wish to take in a sustainable manner so as not to jeopardize our great and varied natural wealth.

From the experiences we have shared with countries from all over the world at this Expo, we have learned how important it is to grow while protecting our environment and the liveability of our cities.

Timor-Leste is committed to contributing to the global challenge that is providing "Better City, Better Life" to all humankind – protecting the environment and strengthening the relationships between rural and urban, between tradition and modernity.

"Be with Us, Be with Nature" was our Pavilion's motto. In Timor-Leste, we have a wonderful mix of the best nature has to offer.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Timor-Leste's participation in Expo Shanghai has been very positive for our nation.

We have had the privilege of taking part in this global exercise of searching for balance in diversity, nurturing the spirit of intercultural dialogue and acting at an international level in the pursuit of sustainable growth.

We are aware of the responsibilities we have as part of the BIE and as participants in such an international event. We have gained experience and knowledge, and now we will seek further participation in the next world Expos.

We have strengthened friendships and made new friends throughout the world – friends who have shared their knowledge with us and who have shown real solidarity with our national development challenge.

I believe that many of these friends will fulfil their wish of visiting our nation.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard during the past six months to make Timor-Leste's representation at Expo Shanghai a great success.

To the Commissioners, Agio Pereira, Virgilio Simith and Miguel Manetelu, to the General Coordinator Joaquim de Brito and the Deputy General Coordinator and Pavilion Director Gloria de Castro, to the workers who designed, assembled and operated the Pavilion – in all, over 30 young Timorese from across the country, and I must say that we are all proud of these young people who come from different backgrounds and trainings, and to all those who supported this initiative, especially the Chinese side, which is another landmark in our Country's history, I thank you and I congratulate you warmly on what you have accomplished!

Together let us continue to make this world a better place!