



**P R I M E  
M I N I S T E R**

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE KAY RALA XANANA  
GUSMÃO AT THE HUNAN (CHINA) TIMOR-LESTE INVESTMENT  
COOPERATION CONFERENCE**

**Changsha, China  
11 April 2013**

His Excellency, Mr He Baoxiang, Vice Governor  
Ambassadors  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear friends

It is a great pleasure to be here in Changsha and to have this opportunity to talk to you about Timor-Leste and the progress and opportunities of our young nation.

During my Official Visit to China I have also had the honour to meet with the Chinese leadership, including His Excellency, the President Xi Jinping, His Excellency, the Premier Li Keqiang and His Excellency, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang.

In our meetings one of the central issues of discussion was how China and Timor-Leste can further strengthen our economic and trade relationship and promote business and investment between our countries.

I am very pleased with the cooperation between our Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Longping High Tech Ltd. I would also like to give personal thanks to Professor Longping, who is known as the Father of Hybrid Rice, for his contribution to agriculture in Timor-Leste as well as to global food security.

It was also good to hear from the leaders of Hunan Province who are pleased to be helping Timor-Leste and our agricultural development and thank you for all your contribution. I would also like to give thanks for their wonderful hospitality and the warm welcome. Hunan Province has been hosting a number of our Ministers before my arrival and has worked closely with us to organise today and I thank them for their support.

Today we will be discussing Timor-Leste's economy and investment environment. I look forward to hearing from China Development Bank as it presents an advisory opinion on our *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*. China has such deep understanding of development that we have much to learn from its experiences.

We are also fortunate to be joined today by our former Prime Minister, Dr Mari Alkatiri. The State of Timor-Leste has given him the trust and responsibility for the establishment of Special Economic Zones. Dr Alkatiri will be delivering a presentation on our plans for Special Economic Zones in Timor-Leste including our first which will be in the enclave of Oecusse. I believe you will enjoy the presentation.

We will also hear in detail about the economic and investment potential of Timor-Leste which will include a speech by our Minister for Commerce, Industry and Environment.

Given that we have so many interesting speakers and presentations to follow I will not take up more of your time.

Before I finish, however, I will say what a great place Timor-Leste is to invest and to do business. We live on a peaceful tropical island with stunning beaches and mountain ranges.

Timor-Leste has an open economy with very low tax rates and strong government support for foreign business. We have a plan for our future, which you will hear more about today, which includes a large infrastructure building program. Timor-Leste also enjoys strong and

sustainable economic growth as well as a growing sovereign wealth fund, our Petroleum Fund, which helps us to finance our development.

We have come to China on the invitation of the Chinese Government and to learn more about your economic miracle. And so, we look to China as partners in the development of our country. I urge you to consider the opportunities for business investment that our nation provides and I invite you all to visit our beautiful country.

Thank you for coming today and for your interest in our young nation.

11 April 2014

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão