The Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030

Ground-breaking blueprint for socioeconomic transformation shows the world an ambitious and dynamic new nation is coming of age

The Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan (SDP) is a 20-year vision that reflects the aspirations of the Timorese people to create a prosperous and strong nation. It is a road map for the development of a future model that is sustainable and to plan for a better future. The strategy and action set out in the plan will be implemented and will contribute to Timor-Leste’s transition from a low-income country to an upper-middle-income one with a healthy, well-educated and safe population. It is an integrated package of strategic policies to be implemented in the short-term (15 years) and medium-term (10 years) and in the long-term (30 years).

Although it is aligned with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the SDP represents much more than a set of targets; it is about setting a pathway to long-term, sustainable, inclusive development in Timor-Leste.

The economy will be built around the growth of three critical indigenous agriculture, tourism and petroleum. Within these industries Timor-Leste has significant advantages due to its resources, geographic location and economic profile. A thriving agriculture sector is needed to reduce poverty, provide food security and generate economic growth. Any emerging petroleum sector will support the farming sector by providing goods and services to improve production and by being involved in marketing any surplus of processed agricultural commodities. The petroleum sector in Timor-Leste has been described as a “knight in shining armor” to transform the country into a modern, tourist- and infrastructure-intensive economy. With the Sanfonio oil and gas production and development, infrastructure will be needed to provide support for the economy and tourist infrastructure. In addition, petroleum revenue will be used to create a major increase in education, health and social services, tourism, infrastructure and agriculture.

The Timorese people have experienced double-digit economic growth and there is already a genuine improvement in people’s welfare. Sector reforms and significant investments in the economy have taken place and development of the oil and gas sector has begun. A long-term Strategic Development Plan was developed in 2011 to optimize the self-sufficiency and national contribution of the Timorese people to continue to transform through the political and economic potential, integration into the world economy, and the transition to a diversification of the resource-based economy. The country will have a modern, diversified and high-value added economy.

The building of a new nation

With its economy growing along with exports, the young nation of Timor-Leste is fast becoming an investor favorite.
Improving infrastructure is top priority

Government officials are pulling out all the stops to get the country up to speed, with exciting new transport links and a far-reaching goal of universal access to electricity.

As a moderating nation, and a potential hub for tourism, energy and trade, Timor-Leste needs a huge injection of infrastructure investment. Although the country has an established airport in Dili — the Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport — and a clutch of regional ones, an upgrade is needed as a priority. PGNL currently operates a network with Australia (Darwin), Indonesia (Jakarta) and PNG in its fold. The road network is small and the airport lacks the capacity to meet the growing demands of passengers, aircraft and safety authorities.

“The government is now working with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank group, to help it launch a public-private partnership (PPP) to generate the necessary capital and expertise. A new road will attract more airlines and foster competition within the sector,” said Minister of Transport and Communications Pedro Lay da Silva.

“We are therefore working on a Transport Master Plan that will bring together all modes of transport across all districts of the nation into a world-class, integrated network that our people need.

“We don’t just want to improve the existing infrastructure; we want to build a new airport and a couple of new ports, one on the north coast and one at Dili.

“We are making all the necessary preparations and the feasibility studies have been done, so we will shortlist the areas and begin to work on the projects. We would like to develop most of the areas at the same time. We have worked already on the feasibility studies and will fully support all oil and gas development programs on the south coast of the country, while now airport at Dili we will support the special economic zone program.

“Dili Port is currently the only port equipped for imports and exports and handle regular shipping to Australia, China, Indonesia, Singapore and others, but it is already reaching its capacity and there is congestion, delays and high costs; ours will continue as the construction of new port at Tiber Bay. Dili Port is currently upgrading and modernising the port in order to increase its capacity. It is expected that the port will be fully operational by the end of 2015.

“Road building is always important for foreign investors, and Japan has always been a strong supporter of our water and sanitation systems. As with the many challenges involved in developing Timor-Leste’s infrastructure, there is not an easy task in which the government has been working on it for the past two years. The focus has been on designing and building the necessary infrastructure to support the country’s economic growth and development.

“We need to work on the expertise, and technology, and we are working on it. We have the equipment, but in some areas, we still need the help of international companies. We have several partnerships with Chinese companies and we are working on Dili and Dili capital urban water supply, electricity works for rural communities. We have a legal framework, we cover the nation that they must pay for these services and that their revenues are used for further maintenance,” he said.

“We need to diversify and also invest in other areas. What we want to do is to develop the country and foster the country and promote the country and attract visitors. We have several partnerships with Chinese companies and we are currently working with the government in China to help them to know that Timor-Leste has problems related to human resources.

“We need to transfer the expertise to the country and we are working on it. We have the equipment, but in some areas, we still need the help of international companies. We are willing to collaborate with companies from China. We are working on the expertise, and technology, and we are working on it. We want to diversify and also invest in other areas. What we want to do is to develop the country and attract visitors.

“With extensive investment aimed at improving the country’s overall infrastructure, the government has been working on it for the past two years. The focus has been on designing and building the necessary infrastructure to support the country’s economic growth and development.

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Pumping energy into the economy

Rich in oil, gas and minerals, Timor-Leste is in a strong position for investment interest and is ensuring it will use the revenues to develop other industries.

With an onshore production target of 400,000 barrels of oil per day and substantial reserves of liquefied natural gas (LNG), the country has every reason to believe it will be a major player in the global energy market. However, the challenge is to ensure the resources are managed in a way that benefits the country for many years to come.

The government has established the Petroleum Fund of Timor-Leste to benefit both current and future generations. The aim is to continue to increase the revenues and to create a stable flow of income that can be used to invest in education, health, and infrastructure.

The fund is managed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, which has a mandate to ensure that the revenues from the petroleum sector are used to benefit the country. The fund is not only invested in the country, but part of it is also channeled to the national budget.

The government has been transparent about its plans for the Petroleum Fund. It has created a website where the public can access information about the fund and its performance. The website is updated regularly with new information and data to help build public trust.

The government has also been proactive in engaging with the private sector. It has invited companies to bid for the development of the country's oil and gas reserves. The government is committed to ensuring that all contracts are signed in a transparent manner.

In summary, the government of Timor-Leste is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the country can benefit from its petroleum resources. The Petroleum Fund is an example of how the government is managing the resources in a way that benefits the country for many years to come. The government has been proactive in engaging with the private sector, and it has created a website where the public can access information about the fund and its performance. The website is updated regularly with new information and data to help build public trust.

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As a new country situated in one of the fastest-growing tourism regions in the world, Timor-Leste can offer integral travelers an enjoyable escape from the overwhelming Asian destinations, as well as provide huge revenue potential for investors.

With tropical climate, rich nature, mountains, islands, reefs, superabundant driving, bathing and modeling, and a cultural heritage that is nothing short of fascinating, Timor-Leste is without doubt, a charming place to visit.

As one of the new pillars estimated for development, opportunity in tourism is limitless. At the moment, there are fewer than 150 hotels, and less than 120 restaurants, and getting around is challenging and often expensive due to the lack of road links. However, with a brand new Ministry of Tourism, the sector that could offer magnificent returns formerly bankrupt.

"We have a five-year plan," Minister of Tourism Francisco Kalbuadi Lay explained. "Our first objective has been to focus on our human resources, training programs and professionalizing the sector. We are looking to form hotel and restaurant associations in the coming years and build a strong private sector.

"We firmly believe tourism will become an important part of the economy, and having dealt with security issues, we are hoping to attract tourists to the island."

Trek amid the breathtaking landscape

United charming, Timor-Leste offers a refreshing backdrop and range of attractions for Japanese tourists, and a host of opportunities for investors too.

"We need to establish the context in which Japanese tourists will want to come. The Japanese are known for their love of travel and a strong country like ours will undoubtedly appeal to them.

"Our country has a unique opportunity to build a tourism sector that avoids both the social and environmental negatives of tourism, and maximizes its contributions."

Minister of Tourism, Francisco Kalbuadi Lay

Relaxing eco-vacations next to nature

Unusually charming, Timor-Leste offers a refreshing backdrop and range of attractions for Japanese tourists, and a host of opportunities for investors too.

"We firmly believe tourism will become an important part of the economy, and having dealt with security issues, we have turned our attention to infrastructure."

A haven for diving enthusiasts

The日本語文
Agricultural exports are on the rise

Responsible for the livelihoods of more than 70 percent of Timorese, the significance of the agricultural sector is huge. Large-scale change is happening on the ground, as Global-Insight discovers.

Global Insight (GI) sat down with Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Joao Mendes Goncalves, to discuss the benefits of the Oecusse Special Economic Zone for Social Market Economy (SEZSME) in Timor-Leste.

GI: What are the major opportunities for foreign investment in the Oecusse SEZSME?

Mendes: Agriculture is a major sector in the Oecusse SEZSME project creating employment, investment and development, together with agriculture, transport and logistics, a catalyst for regional development, trade and investment offering a platform for financial transactions, services and goods and services. With such a strategic location and key industries or other private sector or other private sector or other private sector market arrangements.

GI: What strategies are currently in place to promote the investment climate and business opportunities?

Mendes: We are making efforts to establish a commercial development, an integrated agricultural development, an integrated tourism development, to achieve income-generating opportunities for the coastal communities.

In the short-term, strategies and actions to improve the management of coastal and inland fisheries and create a viable local and regional fisheries development, the Oecusse SEZSME project creates employment, investment and development.

Therefore, it requires a thought-provoking plan to develop the rural areas through this SEZSME project and implement, but not only is the proposal for the district from the investors, “still in its soft stage to become a regional, the Oecusse SEZSME needs to promote and develop the sectoral strategies, tourism, and the private sector or other private sector or other private sector or other private sector market arrangements.

We have an abiding faith to support the development of a quality local food supply chain, ideally looking to local or other private sector market arrangements.

With such a strategic location and key industries, the Oecusse SEZSME project creates employment, investment opportunities and a catalyst for regional development, trade and investment offering a platform for financial transactions, services and goods and services. With such a strategic location and key industries or other private sector or other private sector or other private sector market arrangements.

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As historians and investment practitioners, we must make sure to look at the long-term impact of our decisions. Japan was the first country to recover from a major war and to do so in a short time. In just 12 years, we have made huge advances. Security is no longer an issue, and the rule of law is respected. The fact we still have lots to do in terms of infrastructure and investment management is very important. We are currently assessing our priorities so that we can make the right partnerships and establish the right projects to promote our country. We must always keep in mind the long-term growth.