



Kangaroo Valley – Remexio Partnership

East Timor sees Australia sea treaty in 2001

In a recent news item:

Timorese economic spokesman, Mari Alkatiri, says East Timor expects to conclude a treaty with Australia defining a maritime border and sharing oil revenues between the two countries this year.

Mr Alkatiri reiterated East Timor's claims for the boundary to be drawn halfway across a stretch of sea known as the Timor Gap, giving the Asian territory a share of oil revenues potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

No boundary is currently defined but oil revenues were shared equally between Australia and Indonesia, which occupied East Timor from 1975 to 1999, under a 1991 treaty.

Mr Alkatiri said international law favoured a halfway boundary, rather

than the 50-50 share-out in the 1991 treaty.

Since East Timor voted for independence in 1999, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor took over Indonesia's position.

If the East Timorese are to survive as a nation and carry out the massive rebuilding program necessary, they need the income that is rightfully theirs from the Timor Gap oil deposits. One of the best ways we can help East Timor is to persuade the Federal Government to acknowledge East Timor's sovereignty to the halfway boundary.

Visits to Rem-e-shoo

By the time you read this, Maureen Magee will have returned from her third visit to East Timor. In the calls we have had from Maureen while in East Timor, she has been thrilled by the changes she has seen in Remexio since her last visit.

Around the time of Maureen's last visit, a CivPol office was set up in Remexio, housing the UNTAET multi-national civilian police force. This office has its own generator with satellite phone and fax, making communications a lot easier. For the past couple of months, UNTAET have stationed a District Field Officer at Remexio. Her name is Mie, and she is making a huge difference to the district with her initiative and enthusiasm. Mie has the local women organised into making traditional crafts for sale to tourists, and is running groups to build confidence and self-esteem. One group is also starting a restaurant in the village. At last the people are able to see UNTAET as a positive influence and a part of everyday life.

Jacinta Garrett is leaving for Dili on 21st February to overlap with Maureen for a few days before she returns. Louise Morgan will be taking over from Jacinta – both will be concentrating on health care in Remexio.

And a visit from Remexio

The Chefe de Poste of Remexio, Snr Pedro Mendonca will be travelling to Vanuatu for a three-week visit, and has a four-hour stop-over in Sydney. He is being taken by Mr Mello, a Vanuatu policeman stationed at the CivPol office in Remexio, and will be meeting various government officials in Vanuatu.

A few KV friends will meet them at Mascot and host them for a lightning tour of Sydney. We are hoping to be able to adjust his return flights to allow a visit to Kangaroo Valley.

Keeping 'Nigel' on the Road



A sick child being carried in Nigel

A big 'Thank you' to all the people who donated to our collection jars. The response has been fantastic, with over \$150 raised so far.

Donations to the other projects are great. The chainsaw has been repaired in Darwin and is on its way back to Remexio.



Roof timbers cut using the KV chainsaw

Visit our Web site at:

www.shoal.net.au/~easttimor

and please feel free to contact the following people for further information.

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