

Timor Links
Dili Distance Learning Centre's Quarterly Newsletter
January/February 2004

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2003 – the year in review

2003 saw the DDLC enter the consolidation phase. After initial start up and trial courses, the DDLC has continued to hone and refine its skills and services. To date we have 11 trained Timorese facilitators who run the courses. There are a core of four interpreters recruited and trained by DDLC. Such is their skill they are now in great demand within other ministries and organisations. Sometimes it is difficult for the DDLC to get an interpreter for a course!

September saw the number of DDLC staff double with the addition of a Training Coordinator. At the very end of 2003 the process to recruit a Timorese Deputy Manager was started, commencing the gradual transition of the DDLC to a wholly Timorese managed institution.

The DDLC welcomed many new clients, participants and partners in 2003 and with them have run courses on:

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| * Portuguese language (teaching) | * Trade policy |
| * Management | * Facilitator training |
| * Administration | * Project management |
| * Leadership | * Office management techniques |
| * Governance & development | * Land Policy |

The DDLC has also been used for negotiation meetings, trade talks, interviews and had a role in the Serious Crimes Tribunal held between Jakarta and Timor-Leste.

Throughout 2003 the DDLC had 1827 participants attending 106 sessions. This was an increase on 2002 which saw the centre run 74 sessions with 1181 participants attending.

Much of this increase in business is thanks to the support of GTZ and the Portuguese National Parliament who continue to contribute not only funding but also provide content development. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Portugal and the Portuguese Government also continue to support the DDLC with funding.

The DDLC is also pleased to welcome INTAN and JICA to their facility. INTAN and JICA have been delivering valuable training to participants from the public administration sector. After using the J-NET connection, the DDLC is now exploring avenues for future collaborations with JICA, INTAN and the J-NET networks.

2004 – how are we starting the year?

January and February will see the delivery of two courses from INA in Portugal. The first will be on leadership and the second on human resource management.

Go to www.gdln.org/calendar.html for up to date information on the courses we are offering.

Stay tuned for the launch of the DDLC website. Designed to give you all the information you need about who we are, what we do and what we can offer. It is off with the designer now and should be up and running by April.

The website will be complemented by a new brochure as we embark on a new period of marketing and awareness within the donor/development community in Timor-Leste.

EAP Region Marketing Committee Update

Our first meeting generated sharing of valuable information between the centres, which is offered to all GDLN centres in the region. This includes newsletter, brochure and website content templates, as well as opportunities to work together to develop courses or undertake promotional activities.

Other GDLN centres within the region are invited to join the committee or make suggestions or contributions. Perhaps you've heard of a course that would be beneficial to other countries in the region? Have you developed a new partnership that can benefit others? Had any good ideas that worked well or went very badly? By talking together as a region we will strengthen each individual centre and the role of GDLN in South East Asia. Any thoughts are encouraged. Please direct your correspondence to EAPmarketing@gdln.org

Trivia Corner

If you were on a beach in Timor and you suddenly hear cries of "lafaek!" (la-fie-ek) what should you do?

- a) Keep walking, it's probably only children playing.
- b) Shake your head – you don't want to buy anything.
- c) Have a good look around you and run if you need to.
- d) Start waving your arms around like you are swatting flies.

Answer in the next edition of Timor Links.

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