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PM at PKF engineering course graduation ceremony: Graduates to play ‘important role in country’s development’

(Dili, 27 February) – RDTL’s Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri today told the graduates from the engineering courses run by PKF’s Japan Engineer Group (JEG) that they have an important role to play in Timor-Leste’s development. “You are going to deal with a very important area for the development of this country that is the infrastructure. It will create conditions to flourish the tourism, investment and so on, that will contribute to the betterment of our economy and bringing wealth to our country”, said the Prime Minister. He was speaking at the graduation ceremony at JEG’s headquarters in Tasitolu [outskirts of Dili] this morning.

Ten government-selected Timorese graduated from the 3-month engineering equipment and generators maintenance course. Another 6 graduated from the building works management and planning course begun in December.

JEG Commander Colonel Hiromichi Kawamata praised the trainees’ determination and hard work, remarking that they had skipped lunch breaks in order to complete course assignments, and also helped one another with the problem-solving tasks. Mr. Mario, one of the graduates, thanked the instructors on behalf of the group, saying that “it was a great pleasure when the instructors and interpreter stay patient, calm and keep explaining until all of us understand the subjects”.

Since JEG first deployed as part of UNMISSET’s PKF in 2002, in addition to carrying out their routine tasks, they have trained some 100 Timorese in engineering skills ranging from equipment operation and maintenance to road construction and repair management and planning. Japan for its part has donated several thousand dollars’ worth of engineering equipment to Timor-Leste.

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(photos available)

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