

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 16 July 2002

SRSG MEETS MINISTERS, AMBASSADOR, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE

SRSG Kamalesh Sharma today hosted an informal lunch at his residence with East Timor's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Jose Guterres.

Guterres discussed several areas in which UNMISSET could assist in either providing direct assistance or facilitate the extension of assistance from other bilateral or multilateral donors. These fields would include infrastructure development, human resource development, capacity building and employment generation.

They also discussed the sequence of events surrounding East Timor's upcoming entry into the United Nations. Mr Sukehiro Hasegawa, UNMISSET's new Deputy SRSG, also participated in the lunch.

Later in the day the SRSG called on Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri to introduce the DSRSG. The SRSG indicated that the wide experience and background of the DSRSG – including that of building police and judicial structures in many countries – made him the ideal candidate for his current challenging assignment.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at Hasegawa's appointment and said he was pleased the DSRSG would also be the UN Resident Coordinator and head of the UNDP because this will mean his work will continue even after UNMISSET's mandate is complete.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need to ensure that the experience of cooperation between East Timor and the UN would continue and thus serve as a good example to the rest of the world.

Australian Ambassador Paul Foley also met with the SRSG this afternoon to inform him of the wide range of areas in which Australia is cooperating with East Timor.

UNICEF REGIONAL DIRECTOR ARRIVES ON FOUR-DAY VISIT

UNICEF's Regional Director for Asia and Pacific, Mehr Khan, arrived in Dili today for a four-day visit during which she will review UNICEF programmes in East Timor and prepare for a meeting in New York which will consider plans for UNICEF's 2003-2005 programme.

During her visit, Khan will have meetings with UN officials and government and civil society leaders including Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, Speaker of Parliament Francisco 'Lu-Olo' Guterres, Deputy Speaker Jacob Fernandes and Dili Diocese Bishop Belo.

Khan is also scheduled to attend the opening of a school near Dili which will host a pilot education project exploring different methods that can include members of the community as well as teachers and students. As well as upgrading the buildings, UNICEF has worked to improve teaching skills and cooperation with the community.



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

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The UNICEF Regional Director is also scheduled to open a breastfeeding counselling room at Dili National Hospital which is part of a project designed to teach women about the benefits of breastfeeding that include better nutrition for babies and greater protection from disease.

Prior to her departure on Friday, Khan will host a media briefing in Dili on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Soon after her arrival Khan, accompanied by UNICEF Special Representative Yoshi Uramoto, paid a courtesy call on SRSG Kamallesh Sharma to brief him on Friday's media event and to thank him for UNMISSET's strong interest in the areas of education, health, and development of children and child rights.

Khan in particular thanked UNMISSET for having helped facilitate the decision by East Timor's government to ratify major human rights treaties at the time of its upcoming admission to the UN.

The SRSG was also informed about the meeting of UNICEF's Executive Board in September at which UNICEF's continued assistance to East Timor will be determined.

SEMINAR TO BE HELD ON ISSUE OF AMNESTY OR RECONCILIATION

An all day public seminar entitled *Amnesty or Reconciliation* will be held tomorrow at the headquarters of East Timor's Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR).

The aim of the seminar, co-sponsored by the Commission and the NGO Forum, is to present and discuss the different viewpoints and implications of the draft law on amnesty that is currently before East Timor's Parliament.

Various high profile speakers presenting papers on the topic are scheduled to include Dili Diocese Bishop Belo and Jacinto Alves, a National Commissioner with the CAVR who will outline and discuss the Community Reconciliation Process function of the Commission and the role of the CAVR in the overall reconciliation process.

