

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

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TIMORESE TRAINEES GRADUATE FROM CIVIL ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

Eight Timorese graduated today from a two-month training course in civil engineering conducted by the Japanese Engineering Group (JEG). JEG is UNMISSET's Peacekeeping Battalion that is responsible for heavy equipment road and bridge repair and other civil engineering projects in Timor-Leste. The graduates are now qualified to operate and maintain many types of heavy machinery and to instruct other people in the use and upkeep of such equipment.

The civil engineering course included theoretical and practical training in civil engineering with the students working alongside the Japanese engineers at their headquarters and on various engineering tasks, including a shore protection project in Liquica District.

The eight graduates represent the first group of Timor-Leste Public Administration employees who will take the JEG civil engineering course. The next session is scheduled for January to March 2003. The ultimate objective of the training is to prepare Timor-Leste's Public Administration staff to assume full responsibility of the new country's engineering tasks. It also gives them the capability to operate and maintain the heavy equipment the Japanese will be donating to Timor-Leste when they leave at the end of the UNMISSET mission.

At today's ceremony in Liquica, the Timor-Leste's Minister of Transportation, Communication and Public Works, Ovidio de Jesus Amaral, addressed the graduates and issued them licences to operate heavy equipment.

End



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

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