

NEWS SUMMARY

It's been a difficult summer in East Timor and it is still unclear if the new government can bring stability to the tiny and impoverished country. President Jose Ramos-Horta appointed the former independence leader Xanana Gusmao as prime minister after neither his party nor rival Freitlin won a clear majority in the elections in June. Sporadic violence has continued since, delaying the efforts of NGOs to get people back to permanent homes from refugee camps.

The Ai Kameli Trust is proud to be supporting three East Timorese students in London. They are sponsored jointly with International Student House and with Westminster and London Metropolitan Universities.

- Flavio Simoes Martins is in his second year studying International Relations at Westminster University. He's been taking part in workshops on social justice led by former AKT trustee Peter Carey in Oxford. May's newsletter carried an interview with Flavio; if you haven't had a copy and would like one, please let us know.
- Carlos Alves is also in his second year of Business Law studies at London Metropolitan University and there's an interview with him in this newsletter.
- Inaciá Teixeira has just arrived from East Timor to study for an MA in International Tourism Management at London Metropolitan University. We are especially grateful to London Met for agreeing to offer an additional scholarship as it offers exactly what Inacia wanted to study and has the potential to bring real benefits to her country when she returns next year. She did a first degree in Australia and has been working back home in Timor since.

Carlos and Flavio did very well in their first year exams - scoring between 80 - 90% in all papers. These are outstanding results by anyone's standards and, for students working in their third language, are exceptional. We are delighted by their success and encouraged by the obvious dedication they give to their studies.

Celebrating success How your support helps

In our last newsletter we gave a brief update on one of our students, Luzia Tomas Freitas, who graduated from Westminster University with a 2.1 in July 2006. Lusy recently sent us her news and thanks, which she asked us to pass on to you.

I am very happy to be home again after three years studying in London, which was always cold, clean and had no mosquitoes! Since I am a person who likes to get busy, soon after arriving home, I started to look for a way I can actually do something for my country.

My degree (BSc Hons Biotechnology in Medicine) has equipped me with molecular techniques and skills so I am qualified to work in both experimental and analytical



research and to work in controlling diseases through epidemiology. After a 6 months internship in an Oxford human identity laboratory, I could also work in a DNA or forensic lab or help to establish these facilities in Timor-Leste.

But seeing the real situation in Timor, for now I have rejoined the World Health Organisation where I can use my analytical research skills, and with the Ministry of Health, I have been involved in conducting several studies into HIV prevalence and Japanese encephalitis surveillance. I am looking forward to doing more studies in the near future and offering technical support in areas like malaria control programmes. In the future, I am still considering pursuing my studies to postgraduate level.

I am very thankful to the Ai-Kameli Trust for supporting my three years study in the UK together with the University of Westminster and International Student House; it would have been impossible without their help. I am hoping that these organizations will continue to support Timor-Leste students to study since this country really needs qualified people to help rebuild our country from scratch. Once again thank you

Luzia Tomas Freitas
(Ai-Kameli student 2003-2006)

Investing in the future

Each year the Ai-Kameli Trust supports a few exceptional students who wish to study in the UK and, once qualified, return to East Timor to help rebuild their nation.

One of these, Carlos Alves, is in his second year at London Metropolitan University studying Business Law. Here, Carlo reflects on his experience as an AKT scholar and his hopes for the future.

Tell us about your life at home in Timor?

I dedicated my time to working with International NGOs and UN Agencies in East Timor. I liked to participate in group activities like tree planting projects, youth discussions and sports activities. I have a small family by Timorese standards: I have two brothers and three sisters. My mother is a teacher at primary school in Dili and my father is a driver at the Portuguese Embassy in East Timor. I'm proud to have them as my family.

What education were you able to get in Timor?

My education from elementary through secondary was at the Jesuit Catholic School. The education I received from the Jesuits has inspired me to want to go far in my life. After I finished secondary education, I studied management informatics at the East Timor Institute of Business. There I could study computer science combined with business, but the study facilities are still limited. I've also gained knowledge and experience from capacity building programmes organized by USAID and the East Timor Ministry of Justice in the area of land management, property valuation, and using GPS to identify land tenure.

How did you find out about the AKT scholarships?

I heard about the scholarships for Timorese students via the Ai-Kameli Trust website. I chose to study at London Met because I was impressed with the LLB - Business Law course as it is relevant to my work experience and to the development strategy of East Timor. I am very pleased to have been offered an Ai - Kameli scholarship and thank them, together with London Met and International Students House for this great opportunity.



What's it like studying in London?

London is a cosmopolitan city with a multicultural society. It's been a huge culture shock as the weather is unfriendly and because I'm far away from home. But after a couple of months I found that London is a great city to study and to live in, and I'm enjoying myself. It is really hard to study in English; I found difficulties adapting to the academic language, but I am committed to study hard and I have had help from the university's learning development unit.

When you complete your degree, what will you do?

When I've completed my studies I will return to East Timor and apply my knowledge particularly in land and property to help the East Timor government establish a proper legal regime to encourage foreign investment. I would also like to work in the private sector as it is the driver of economic development. Understanding business and law could help prevent maladministration and corruption, and improve the image of East Timor in international trade.

What help does East Timor need to succeed as an independent country?

East Timor is a newly established country and there are huge challenges ahead, particularly in the development of human resources. Education is an important development priority. I hope that the new government will promote access to education throughout the country. The new government needs to collaborate with NGOs in East Timor and abroad to find the best way to improve the education system. I believe that with national unity between Timorese people and implementation of good policy, things will improve.

Thank you

For helping these young people work towards fulfilling their hopes for East Timor.

With your continued support, we can help more people like Lusy, Carlos, Flavio and Inacia rebuild their nation. Donations (cheques or CAF vouchers, payable to 'The Ai-Kameli Trust' may be sent to our registered office (details below). To help keep our administration costs down and ensure that as much of your gift as possible is used to support our students, we do not normally send acknowledgments though are always happy to do so when requested.

When we offer a scholarship we need to be confident that we will be able to support the student throughout their period of study – normally three years. A number of people already support us regularly via standing order from their bank or building society. This is an enormous help as it enables us to plan with greater confidence. If you do not already support us in this way and would like to, please complete the form overleaf. You can also use this form to increase the value of your existing standing order if you wish.

However you choose to support us - whether it is by occasional donations as your circumstances allow or by a regular gift – if you are a UK taxpayer please increase the value of your gift – at no additional cost to yourself – by completing and returning the gift aid form overleaf. This enables us to reclaim the tax you have already paid on your gift and increases its value by 28%. If you have already sent us a gift aid form - thank you, there is no need for you to do so again.

If you prefer to keep your newsletter intact, please photocopy the form(s). You may also wish to photocopy them for friends and family members to use.

The Ai-Kameli Trust, Unit 3, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, London. N1 7BJ |
info@aikameli.com www.aikameli.com
Registered Charity No. 10832737

STANDING ORDER FORM

To make a regular donation to our work by standing order, please complete this form and send direct to your bank/building society. You can also use this form to amend your existing standing order payment to the Trust. If you can, please let us know that you are supporting us in this way so that we can check that payments are being made as you intend. If you want to let us know by email at info@aikameli.com, please do.

If you are a UK taxpayer and support us via standing order, please increase the value of your gift by completing the gift aid form at the bottom of the page and returning it to us. Thank you.

I would like to make a regular donation to the Ai-Kameli Trust.

Title:..... First name: Surname:

Address.....

Postcode:

This standing order cancels any previous instructions to the same Ai-Kameli Trust account.

To (name of your bank/building society)

Address of your bank /building society.....

Post code

Sort code

Your account name.....and number.....

Please credit the Ai-Kameli Trust account number 00089094 at the CAF Bank (sort code 40-52-40) with £ every month / quarter / year (please delete) starting on (dd/mm/yyyy) and continuing until further notice.

SignatureDate.....



GIFT AID

If you pay income tax please complete this form and return it to us at The Ai-Kameli Trust, Unit 3, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, London. N1 7BJ I. This will enable us to reclaim the tax on your donation and increase the value of your gift by approximately 28%. This form covers both occasional and regular donations.

*You must be a UK tax payer and pay at least as much income tax and/or capital gains tax as the amount we reclaim on your donations in the tax year. Please remember to inform us of any changes in your tax status or address. **Thank you.**

I, (please insert full name)

Of (please insert your full address including your post code)

.....declare that I am a tax payer* and that the Ai-Kameli Trust can reclaim the tax on donations that I have made since 6 April 2000 and on future donations that I make to the Ai-Kameli Trust.

Signature:

Date: