



## Timor-Leste Australia Energy Partnership Strengthens Research Collaboration Through Mentorship Program

The Timor-Leste Australia Energy Partnership, led by the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources and Autoridade Nacional do Petróleo I.P (ANP) Timor-Leste, has successfully completed a five-day research mentorship initiative, bringing together six (6) Timor-Leste researchers with five (5) expert mentors from Australia.

The program, which took place from 22 to 26 July 2024, aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing between Timor-Leste researchers and their Australian counterparts in the field of energy research. The participating researchers were selected from universities and institutions in Timor-Leste, including Dili Institute of Technology (DIT), National University of Timor Lorosa'e



(UNTL), Timorese Catholic University (UCT), Institute of Geosciences of Timor-Leste (IGTL), National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA) and ANP Timor-Leste. The research projects addressed energy-related issues in Timor-Leste, such as:

- *“Investigating the influence of fluid and Rock Properties on CO<sub>2</sub> Adsorption and Sequestration in Selective Rock for Carbon Capture Storage”.*
- *“Source Rock Quality Analysis in Onshore Timor. Implication for Hydrocarbon Exploration and Production”.*
- *“Evaluation of Geothermal Reservoir Characteristic in High-Temperature Surface Area (~100 oC) of Hatólia, Timor-Leste”.*
- *“Corporate Social Responsibility effectiveness of Timor-Leste oil and gas offshore projects from 2004 to 2024.*
- *“Enviromental Related topic”.*

- *“A partial decommissioning of an aging Bayu Undan Offshore Production Facilities and its repurpose for a Mega project of Carbon Captures Sequestrations: Timor-Leste Case Study”.*

Throughout the program, the Timorese researchers had the opportunity to work closely with their Australian mentors, who are experts in their respective fields. The Timorese researchers included:

- Ms. Octaviana A. F. S. de Jesus, Dili Institute of Technology (DIT)
- Mr. Cornelio Moniz, National University of Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)
- Mr. Alino da Cruz, Institute of Geosciences of Timor-Leste (IGTL)
- Mr. Norberto Maia de Araújo, National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA)
- Mr. Afonso Aleixo, Timorese Catholic University (UCT)
- Mr. Mateus da Costa, ANP Timor-Leste

And the Australian mentors included:

- Professor Eric May, University of Western Australia
- Professor Klaus Regenauer-Lieb, Curtin University
- Emeritus Professor Chris Elders, Curtin University
- Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Azhar, Edith Cowan University
- Associate Professor Kathy Witt, University of Queensland

This mentorship opportunity has enabled the sharing of valuable knowledge, skill development, and collaboration on research projects addressing important energy challenges in Timor-Leste. Mr. Afonso, a researcher from UCT, reflected on the experience, stating, "These five days have been highly productive. I gained valuable insights into my field and understood their expectations".

At the same time, Ms. Octaviana, a researcher from DIT said "We are delighted about the visit from Australian mentors to Timor-Leste. During their five-day stay, they thoughtfully shared their expertise on CO2 Adsorption and Sequestration, significantly increasing the knowledge of researchers and students. We appreciate the guidance provided by the Australian mentors in choosing the right research methodology. We look forward to the continuation of this program in the future".

The Timor-Leste Australia Energy Partnership's research activity program, in its second phase, focuses on partnerships, collaborative research, and innovation in the energy sector. Key areas include climate change and sustainable energy sources, as stated by Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Ms. Caitlin Wilson.

Additionally, during the Timor-Leste Australia Lecture Series event on July 24, 2024, held at the UNTL Auditorium in Hera, Dili, Mr. Gualdino do C. da Silva, President of ANP, announced a new partnership scheme aims to elevate research and innovation by pairing Australian professors with students for joint projects lasting around 12 months, focusing on skill development.

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