

The Conferral Ceremony

of

Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy Honoris Causa

on

His Excellency José Ramos - Horta

Under-Secretary-General

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

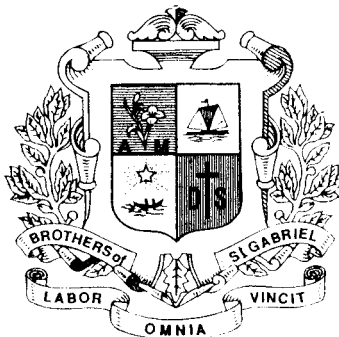
Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau (West Africa)

on

December 18, 2013

at

Suvarnabhumi Campus
Assumption University of Thailand



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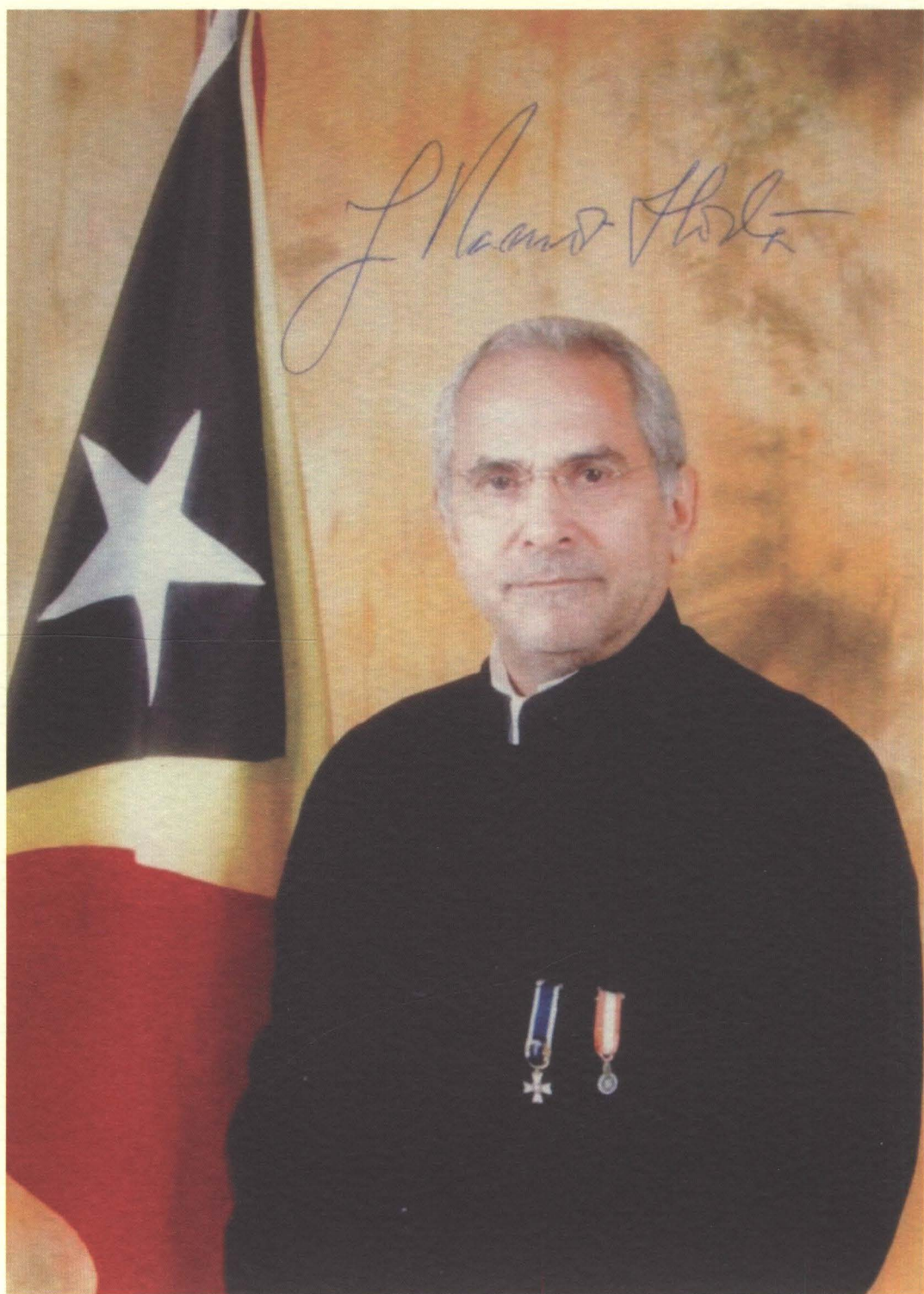
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The Conferral Ceremony Programme

11.00 hrs Entrance Hymn... “แผ่นดินของเรา”

His Excellency José Ramos - Horta
Under-Secretary-General
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General
Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau (West Africa)

Rev. Bro. Amnuay Yoonprayong, f.s.g.
Chaplain of Assumption University

standing in the premises of the altar

♣ Academic Procession enters the Chapel during the Entrance Hymn in the following order:

Flag Bearers

Processional Cross

Two Faculty members carrying

Doctoral Hood and Ph.D. Diploma

Chairman of the University Council

Members of the Council

Vice Presidents

President

♣ Rev. Bro. Amnuay Yoonprayong intones:

Veni, Creator Spiritus

♣ All are seated

♣ The Vice President for Academic Affairs reads the Citation

♣ Investiture Ceremony and Degree Presentation by the President of Assumption University

♣ Speech by **His Excellency José Ramos - Horta**

♣ All stand

♣ Assumption University Anthem

♣ Photograph-taking Session

♣ Recession

♣ Reception at John XXIII Conference Centre

แผ่นดินของเรา

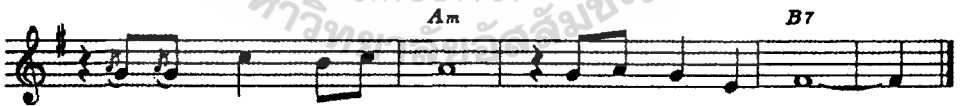
บ.พานพันธ์



1. เดือน-ดา-รา ทวี เว - หน ดล-บัน-ดาล สร้าง-สรรค์ มา
2. มวล นก-กา บน เว - หา มวล แมก-ไม้ ทวี พ - นา
3. มวล ม-นุษย์ ทวี แดน ไหน ส่วนสร้าง ไว้ เหนือ สิ่ง ไค
4. ทั้ง พระ คุณ อีก มาก ล้น ยัง ช่วย ดล ให้ รู้ งาม




1. ด้วย ฤท - ธา นุ - ภาพ เดือน ดา-รา ใหญ่ - น้อย
2. ทรง สร้าง มา พรอม ล้น มวล มัจ-ฉา ทวี วา - รี
3. มี จิต ใจ วัติ ชั่ว ทั้ง สัตว์ น้ำ บก ทั้ง - หลาย
4. จิต - ใจ ทรมาน เปลี่ยน ล้น พระ เย - ชู บุตร ของ พระ

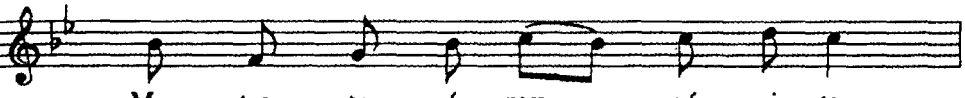


1. ที่ ล่อง - ลอย บน น - ภา ส่อง แสง มา เพื่อ เรา
2. ส่วน มาก มี เหลือ ค - ณา สรร-สร้าง มา เพื่อ เรา
3. สรร-สร้าง ไว้ ช่วย บรร - เทา เป็น ประ-โยชน์ ของ เรา
4. ประ-ทาน ไว้ เพื่อ นำ ทาง คู่ ส - วรรค์ นิรัน - ดร


Veni, Creator Spiritus

1. 


Ve - ni, Cre - á - tor spí - ri - tus,



Men - tes tu - ó - rum ví - si - ta:



Im - ple su - pér - na grá - ti - a,



Quae tu cre - á - sti pé - cto - ra. A - men.

2. Qui diceris Paráclitus,
Altíssimi dómen Dei,
Fons vivus, ígnis, cáritas,
Et spiritalis únctio.
3. Tu septifórmis múnere.
Dígitus, paternae dexteræ,
Tu rite promíssum Pátris,
Sermóne díctans gúttura.
4. Accende lúmen sensibus,
Infúnde amórem córdibus,
Infírma nóstri córporis
Virtúte firmans perpeti.

5. Hostem repellas lóngius,
Pacemque dónes prótinus:
Ductóre sic te praevio
Vitemus ómne nóxium.
6. Per te sciámus da Pátrém,
Noscámus atque Fílium,
Teque utriúsque Spíritum
Credámus ómni tempore.
7. Deo Pátri sit glória,
Et Fílio, qui a mórtuis
Surrexit ad Paráclito
In seculórum secula. Amen.

V Emitte Spiritum tuum et creabuntur.

R. Et renovabis faciem terrae.

Oremus.

Deus, qui corda fidélium Sancti Spíritus illustratióne docuísti; da nobis in eódem Spíritu recta sápere; et de eius semper consolatióne gaudére. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum.

R. Amen.

Assumption University of Thailand

Conferral of Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy Honoris Causa

On His Excellency José Ramos - Horta

Under-Secretary-General

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau (West Africa)

Citation

Global history at present witnesses people and events, some momentous, others disastrous. Universities on the other hand are centers of learning and training of scholars and the point at which global histories and university roles intersect, inspiration comes from great global personalities who stride the courses of their lives and live ebullient philosophies which inspire and lead others to realize the value of living through giving selflessly to the human communities. His Excellency José Ramos - Horta, a Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of East Timor is a pivotal example of a contributory leader-philosopher and it is fitting that Assumption University of Thailand recognize a Global leader for his inspirational catholic appeal.

Born on 26 December 1949 in Dili, East Timor, H.E. José Ramos - Horta through his enduring passion and conviction in service above self, has been recognized through the following awards nationally, and globally: Order of Timor-Leste (2012), Order of Dom Boaventura (2006), Order of Freedom, from Portugal (1998), Order of Liberty, Grand Cross, from Portugal (1996), Nobel Peace Prize (1996), shared with his fellow countryman, Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, for their work towards a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor, and Orders from Portugal, Brazil, Cuba, Cape Verde, among other numerous international awards.

Balancing such achievements, H.E. José Ramos-Horta has achieved recognition and plaudits in academe with Doctor Honoris Causa from universities in Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Brazil, Portugal, and USA. Such distinctions arise in the context of a consistent and impressive academic career which in summary can be enumerated as follows: H.E. Ramos-Horta is a Doctoral Candidate in International Relations at

Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Peace Studies, Antioch University, Ohio, USA (1984). Additionally, H.E. Ramos-Horta has achieved an Advanced Diploma, Public Relations, Centro Internacional de Marketing, from Colombia (1970-1974) and a Diploma, Executive Program, Leaders in Development, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA (1998). Complementing such a rich array of academic qualifications, H.E. Ramos-Horta completed post-graduate courses in American Foreign Policy, Columbia University, USA (1983), Public International Law, Hague Academy of International Law, the Netherlands (1983) and trained in Human Rights Law, International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France (1983). In 1987 he served as Senior Associate Member, International Relations, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford, UK.

Augmenting a diverse and yet incisive academic career, H.E. José Ramos-Horta is author to Books and other writings noteworthy among which are the following: FUNU: The Unfinished Saga of East Timor, Red Sea Press, Trenton, NJ, USA, (1987), Timor-Leste: Amanha em Dili, Dom Quixote, Lisbon, (1994), The Lost World of Timor-Leste, Ministry of Education, UNICEF, Dili, Timor-Leste (2010), a children's story book written with Patricia Vickers-Rich, and illustration by Peter Trusler. It is gratifying to note that amidst his various other engagements, our honoree has written extensively on international affairs for the International Herald Tribune, New York Times, Wallstreet Journal, Huffington Post, and the Bangkok Post, Thailand. We elicit through such work that H.E. José Ramos - Horta transcends borders and academic disciplines through speaking to diverse topical interests in a voice which does not only understand the cadences and nuances of human states but also brings into rich display languages from both native and acquired tongues among which H.E. Ramos - Horta uses: Tetum (the lingua franca of East Timorese) and Portuguese, fluent English, French and Spanish.

Any recognition worth its merit on an illustrious and generous life such as that of H.E. Ramos-Horta, must balance between the meditative aspect, the work of a gifted leader. As such, of more recent note is his role as Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, with the rank of Under Secretary of State to Guinea-Bissau in February 2013 to bring about reforms, constitutional order, democratization, respect for human rights and political rights, and most significantly, freeing the country from chronic coups and drug cartels. H.E. Ramos - Horta has accomplished the impossible by restoring the State of Guinea-Bissau to its dignity

and democracy within the targeted time frame of November 2013. H.E. José Ramos – Horta, the immediate former President of the Democratic Republic of East Timor (2007 - 2012), has lived a life of a gifted political statesman and has dedicatedly served his country as Prime Minister and simultaneously, Minister of Defence (2006-2007) and Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (2002-2006). More significantly however, when his nation emerged in its present shape, H.E. Ramos-Horta took up the portfolio of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information, in the first Government proclaimed in December 1975 following Timor-Leste's Unilateral Declaration of Independence, and Representative, Spokesperson, for the Resistance (1975-1999).

Deriving therefore from a life so wholesome and yet one that has shined equally inspirationally in dark moments in the seeming obscurity of Timorese struggle for independence, and more recently in the West African State of Guinea-Bissau, in the hallowed halls of learning, in the reverberating halls of parliament and on the stage of life itself, Assumption University of Thailand, in keeping with its core belief of *Luceat Lux Vestra*, “Let your light shine”, bestows upon His Excellency José Ramos - Horta the title of Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy Honoris Causa on this Eighteenth Day of December, the Year of Our Lord, Twenty Thirteen.

Commemorative Address

by

His Excellency José Ramos - Horta

Under-Secretary-General

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau (West Africa)

**At the Conferral Ceremony of the Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy Honoris Causa
Assumption University, Bangkok
December 18, 2013**

ASIA: Rise or Fall

Challenges and Opportunities

In The XXI Century



J. Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1996); President of the Republic (2007-2012), Prime Minister (2006-2007); Senior Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs (2001-2006) of Timor-Leste. He writes frequently on current international affairs for publications such as The New York Times, International Herald Tribune, Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, The Daily Beast/Newsweek, etc.

"I believe that time has come for Asia to lead on environment preservation and sustainable development while navigating the multitude of complex challenges of the 21st Century".

"Asian leaders should consider a 30-year Asian Road Map for integrated, sustainable Human Development, on eradicating poverty, illiteracy, TB, malaria, etc. and restore the wealth and health of forests, rivers and seas".

"The XX¹st Century will be Asia's Century, Asia's Age of Enlightenment, if a new Mahatma Gandhi emerges who inspires and leads all, the 4 billion people of this vast region that extends from the doors of Constantinople to Dili, a region of great civilizations, religions and cultures, of great challenges and great possibilities; we need a new Mahatma Gandhi to unite us, to inspire, to have the courage to overcome the shackles of the past, face the present and adopt a Road map to build a Future of Peace, Freedom and Prosperity". (Excerpts from J. Ramos-Horta speech on the occasion of the conferral of Doctor Honoris Causa in Philosophy by the Assumption University of Thailand, 18th December 2013)



"Among our many achievements, one that is of great value, is the reconciliation among the divided Timorese family. Our Maun Bot Xanana who led us to freedom when all seemed lost, has led this unique reconciliation process with courage, determination and compassion. I am proud of being part of a society that has shown a great heart in resisting the temptation to exercise revenge in the name of justice".

"In victory be magnanimous, never seek to humiliate the adversary; if he is on his knees hold his hands and plead with him to rise up, embrace him; walk halfway and meet the vanquished ones, embrace them, invite them to join in a new enterprise of peace, a new future for all. This has been my belief and in many ways this has been our practice since independence."

(Excerpts from President Jose Ramos-Horta's farewell speech upon leaving office on 20th May 2012)

Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, FSG, the Rector Magnificus of Assumption University
Rev. Brother Dr. Prathip Martin Komolmas, FSG, the Rector Emeritus of Assumption University
Rev. Brother Surasit Sukchai, FSG, the Chairman of the Assumption University Council and Provincial Superior of the Foundation for the Brothers of St. Gabriel in Thailand
Members of the Assumption University Council
Members of the Assumption University Alumni Association
Special Invitees, Honored Guests
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Assumption University Administrators, Faculty and students,

First and foremost, I offer prayers for the continuing health of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej as His Majesty continues to lead his devout subjects on the path of peace, harmony and prosperity.

I bow to the Rector and all Faculty of this great University for honoring me with the title Doctor Honoris Causa in Philosophy.

I am humbled and struggle to believe that I am truly deserving of such prestigious academic honor. In bestowing such great tribute to a sinner and a commoner, this gesture of yours speaks more about your magnanimity than about my unproven contribution to humanity.

It is always a pleasure to revisit the Kingdom of Thailand. Like other countries in our region Thailand faces complex political and social tensions that cause real concern among its many friends.

However, we are all hopeful that those involved in the different sides of the divide surely will be able to meet halfway in frank and robust dialogue, swallow their pride, restrain their anger, manage their emotions, bridge their differences, and charter an inclusive Road Map for the Future of Thailand as a truly free, peaceful, compassionate and egalitarian society illuminated by the wisdom of Buddha.

I was here in Bangkok in May 2010 in the heat of the street protests - and was the only foreign Head of State welcome by the Government. I was witness to the tensions and the bloody confrontation that ensued as the two sides were not able to climb down from their respective demands. Today it seems the divide and tensions continue.

The Rector, Faculty, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being a founding-father of my country, I must always share with you the news of the positive developments that are taking place there.

As you know, since the beginning of this year, I have been posted in West Africa as a Peace Envoy of the UN Secretary-General in the small West African country, Guinea-Bissau.

But even from afar I follow the developments in my country and I'm pleased to say that Timor-Leste remains a success story in Asia. We have come a long way in a fairly short time, since the restoration of Independence in 2002.

Ten years on, we are proud that the latest **UNDP Human Development Report** accords Timor-Leste a HDI for 2012 that jumped to the value of 0.576, placing our country in the medium human development category; at independence in 2002 it was 0.375.

According to the UNDP-commissioned report:

...Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia were the HDI growth leaders in the Medium Human Development grouping.

East Asia and the Pacific: The region has an average HDI value of 0.683 and registered annual HDI value growth between 2000 and 2012 of 1.31%, with Timor-Leste leading with 2.71%, followed by Myanmar at 2.23%. The East Asia-Pacific region has the highest employment-to-population ratio (74.5%) in the developing world.

(Source: UN Human Development Report, 2012)

Timor-Leste's economy continues to perform well. Bank deposits grew by 10.5% year on year in the first half of 2013. Private sector credit was 10.3% higher in June 2013 than a year earlier, reaching a new high of \$165.6 million.

Bank lending grew strongly as well in the first half of 2013, as credit to individuals rose by 13.1% and credit to commercial and financial companies grew by 25.2%.

Lending to agricultural producers also registered double-digit growth, which suggests expanded investment in coffee farms.

The value of merchandise imports was almost three times higher in the first quarter of the year than in the first quarter of 2012. The value of nonpetroleum exports posted very high growth, albeit starting from a low base.

Vehicle registrations in the first half of 2013 were 25.8% higher than a year earlier. Sales of electricity were 7.8% higher over the same period, following the completion of the national electrification program.

Since 2005, life expectancy at birth in Timor-Leste increased by more than two years and now averages 64 years.

GNP per capita increased 228 per cent during the same period to over US\$5,000. Average annual growth has exceeded 10 percent for the last four years and real non-Oil GDP growth remains strong as we speak.

According to forecasts by **The Economist**, Timor-Leste is among the nine fastest growing economies of the world in 2013.

School enrolment jumped from a modest 63 per cent in 2006 to well over 90 per cent now for basic Education, according to the 2010 National Census.

More than 300,000 adults have also graduated from illiteracy to functioning literacy since 2006 when we launched the adult Illiteracy program, a program conceived with support from Cuba. It is anticipated that adult illiteracy will be eliminated by 2015.

Infant mortality and child mortality under five, as well as post-birth mother mortality, have been halved.

Incidences of malaria and dengue and the prevalence of poverty have decreased significantly.

With less than one case of leprosy per 10,000 people, Timor-Leste is now considered by the WHO to be free from this centuries-old disease.

As we feel proud of our achievements thus far we are also very much aware of the daunting challenges still to overcome.

Poverty has seen significant reduction as its prevalence declined from 49% in 2007 to 41% two years later according to estimates by the World Bank. But this means poverty is still high and remains a major challenge. However, the Government is determined to bring poverty levels down to below 15% by 2015.

Access to clean water, sanitation, public Health and Education are key priorities that need robust investment now and for years to come.

Like many countries in the early years of Independence, Timor-Leste has had to confront social and political challenges. In some instances, like in 2006 crisis, violence flared up rolling back the gains of previous years.

However, we have been able to quickly overcome these crises. As the **UNDP Human Development** report and other indicators show, we have rebounded stronger from the brief periods of instability.

The political situation in Timor-Leste in recent years has been remarkably free of tension.

The governing coalition of three parties led by Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao and the large opposition party FRETILIN have committed themselves to continue to further consolidate peace, national unity, reconciliation and sustainable development.

We have a dynamic multi-party democracy with 4 parties in the National Parliament. More than 30 per cent of the elected MPs are women. Women hold key ministerial portfolios.

While our democracy is young and therefore imperfect, nevertheless Government and opposition have found common ground on key strategic priorities for the country and have been able to work together to consolidate peace and national reconciliation, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development.

I commend Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao and former Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri for their wisdom and statesmanship in forging such noble partnership for the better and higher interests of the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Transparency in our public life is a process that we impose on ourselves to promote and to deepen with the assistance of the international community.

The ***Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative*** (EITI) rates Timor-Leste **best performer in Asia**, and third in the world, in terms of accountability and transparency in the management of our Petroleum resources.

In the pursuit of good governance and transparency, the Anti-Corruption Commission, working in partnership with the Ombudsman and the office of Prosecutor-General have shown to all that no one is above the law and Justice is being upheld for all.

Our security institutions, the Army and Police forces, are now more professional, disciplined and better imbued with the culture of respect for human rights and the strict adherence to the rule of law.

We have ratified all major International Human Rights Treaties and complied with reporting obligations.

Our country stands out with its liberal, humanist Constitution that prohibits the death penalty and life imprisonment.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Timor-Leste has one of the freest media in the region.

Our country has also set a successful policy of reconciliation and peace. On the national level, we have healed the wounds among the previously deeply divided Timorese Family and with our Indonesia brothers and sisters.

Allow me to quote my own words, extracted from my farewell speech to the Nation when I left office in May 2012.

"Among our many achievements, one that is of great value, is the reconciliation among the divided Timorese family. Our Maun Bot Xanana who led us to freedom when all seemed lost, has led this unique reconciliation process with courage, determination and compassion. I am proud of being part of a society that has shown a great heart in resisting the temptation to exercise revenge in the name of justice".

"In victory be magnanimous, never seek to humiliate the adversary; if he is on his knees hold his hands and plead with him to rise up, embrace him; walk halfway and meet the vanquished ones, embrace them, invite them to join in a new enterprise of peace, a new future for all. This has been my belief and in many ways this has been our practice since independence".

Today we enjoy unique excellent relations with our closest neighbours, Indonesia and Australia. I can state with confidence that there are no two countries anywhere in Asia enjoying better relations than Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

But far and beyond, we have developed excellent active relationships with China, Korea, Japan, the United States, the European Union, the Portuguese-speaking countries; and we look forward to soon join ASEAN and fully integrate into our natural region.

For all the above, for the peace our people are enjoying today, peace among us and at peace with our former "enemies", I may have contributed my share.

Excellencies,

Allow me now to turn to the theme of my doctoral presentation for this occasion.

We are living in times of great challenges in much of the world but also of hope and optimism for our peoples and our continent.

When we set ourselves to work to build a better, more peaceful world for all, it might help in our endeavour if we are reminded of the horrors of past wars with its consequences.

I'm a frequent visitor to Japan and have visited several times the historic city of Hiroshima, toured the Museum that so vividly walks a visitor through the corridors and chambers of horror of the devastation caused by the one single atomic bomb dropped on that city one clear day in August 1945 at the end of World War II.

No less heartbreaking have been my visits to the Holocaust Museum in Berlin that reminds us of the systematic cleansing of millions of Jews in Europe by the Third Reich.

In both cities we are sadly reminded of human beings' capacity to inflict destruction and pain on fellow human beings.

And Japanese people should not be reminded only of the horrors of the effects of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They should be truthfully educated about what brought about the destruction and death in Hiroshima and Nagasaki; as much as we must all revisit Hiroshima time and again, we should remember time and again the suffering and destruction caused by the Japanese Imperial Army in many parts of Asia during the five years of aggression and occupation.

Unfortunately human beings do not seem to ever learn from history. Soon after the end of WWII we had the Korean War unleashed by the communist regime in the North of the Korean Peninsula as it attempted in a lightening, surprise attack to overrun the people and forces of the South.

And we had mad policies of Stalin in Russia and Mao in China, the 1965-66 mass killings in Indonesia, the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields in Cambodia in the mid 70's, the genocide in East Timor beginning in 1975, the Rwanda genocide of 1994, the Balkan wars and ethnic cleansing in the 1990's, the on-going tragedies in Darfur, Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Afghanistan, Lybia, Syria.

Let us not forget the past wars of partition of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Biafra, Iran-Iraq war, the invasion of tiny Koweit by the Saddam Hussein regime, etc.

The catalogue of human brutalities is a far too long one and still ongoing that makes me wonder whether we ever learn!

As the US and NATO forces begin their phased withdrawal from Afghanistan, there is growing anxiety and fear among many Aghans about the future - about their hard-won democratic gains; will these gains survive the American withdrawal in 2014 or once again will the country and the people be overrun by the Taliban?

And what will happen in Pakistan which faces its own internal Taliban and other security challenges?

I beg to disagree with a number of scholars who paint too a rosy picture about the emerging 21st Century Asia. Time and again we hear the claim that world power is shifting to Asia. I believe this is overly exaggerated and misleading.

The challenges we face in Asia are immense and complex. I would dare say that our region is the most dangerous in the world, the most militarized, most nuclearized, with complex land and maritime border disputes, regional rivalries, ethnic and religious conflicts that have exploded frequently in and among states.

Africa and Latin America have long freed themselves from the legacies of the Cold War. The conflicts still prevailing in the two regions pale by comparison with the security challenges we face in Asia.

Africans and Latin Americans have created regional political bodies, democratic systems, rule of law and human rights practices and monitoring mechanisms that make us Asians look like we still live in feudal XIX Century.

Only in Asia there is a regime like the one in North Korea, as barbaric as the worst of the Stalinist era; in Asia we have stone age beliefs and practices that deny girls the right to go to school; in Africa parents sweat to earn a few extra dollars to send their daughters to school and they beam with pride as these girls excel in school and later in life become leaders; in many parts of Asia acid is thrown on girls for daring to sit in a class room; girls are shot for daring to walk to a school; girls are married off or simply sold off; In Asia a woman can be sentenced to death by stoning for committing adultery.

As long as all these horror stories occur daily in our region, as long as we have religious fanatics who want half of humanity, the women, to remain enslaved to ignorance and poverty, as long as too many in Asia believe in a God that is MERCILESS and in His behalf they kill those who disagree with certain interpretations of the holly script; the XXIst Century will not be ours.

As long as leaders and peoples of North East Asia (China, Japan and Korea) are not able to free themselves from the past, as long as Japanese officials and educators continue to rewrite history and trivialize the facts of the suffering caused by the Imperial war unleashed on Asians, and as long as leaders and peoples in China do not have the courage and magnanimity to free themselves from this chapter in their history with Japan, this Century will be still the American Century or it might be the African Century - an Asian Century will be elusive to us!

Our challenges are overwhelming, daunting. But we can overcome these challenges by pooling resources, solutions, in partnerships, without exclusions.

Asia must further develop partnerships with the US and the EU, technological powerhouses and large economic areas that have much still to contribute to global solutions.

Against the many negatives facts and complex challenges cited above, there are many good news, dramatic positive transformations. Hundreds of millions of people have been freed from poverty, in particular in China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, The Philippines, Thailand; others, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Singapore continue to outshine much of the world in science, technology and innovation.

As we enter the second decade of the 21st Century, Asian economies have become the powerhouse of global economy.

China, the Republic of Korea, India and Indonesia have been growing at annual rates of between 6 and 10 percent for sustained long periods.

The economies of China, Korea, Japan and India put together already account for over 14 trillion dollars of annual GDP.

ASEAN, another fast growing economic region, represents some 2 trillion dollars of combined annual GDP.

Asia economic powerhouses put together are already a formidable force, side by side with the 16 trillion dollars of combined output in EU countries and the 15 trillion dollars US economy, according with IMF estimates for 2010.

And, every day, the sustained high economic performance of leading Asian countries help pulling smaller neighbours into the path of growth and economic development.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

On the human rights front, there are also positive news. Compared with the immediate post-World War II period up to the 90's, we could say there has been dramatic progress in civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, the two fundamental pillars of all human rights.

Colonialism and apartheid were obviously two of the worst manifestations of individual and collective abuses - of gross, systematic and systemic abuse of human rights.

But sadly and tragically freedom from colonial rule didn't mean necessarily freedom from oppression. In fact, in too many instances, there were greater human rights abuses in the years after independence than during the colonial era.

Too many peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America were liberated from colonial rule to become victims of the new tyrants with different skin color and masks.

In Asia, for example, from the early 50's till the late 80's we saw horrendous human rights situations in China, Cambodia, Indonesia, South Korea, Bangladesh, and Burma.

We saw brutal violence in many parts of Africa - despotic regimes in Uganda, Congo, and the Central African Empire being just a few examples. In Latin America there were only one or two bright spots during that whole period.

Even in the heart of Europe, by 1974, there were still two old dictatorships in the Iberian Peninsula; peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic States, were for decades hostages of communist regimes; millions were imprisoned and perished Russian prison gulags and the labor camps of Siberia.

So I would say that overall, the human rights situation in the world today, viewed from the perspective of the two main international human rights conventions, has improved significantly.

In few words, the world has changed much, Asia is changing fast, and in the face of the financial and economic predicaments of the US and Europe, Asia must seek to be center stage and lead.

But to lead is to inspire, to be able to forge partnerships, build bridges and seek common ground.

Asia can and should lead on tackling the challenges we face in the 21st Century: we have resources to alleviate and finally eradicate poverty; we master sciences and technology; we possess know-how to lead the search for global answers to the challenges of climate change and the need for sustainable increase in food production.

Asia can and should lead on reversing environmental damage and ensuring sustainable development, while keeping up with the welfare of our peoples.

In our globalized world, Asia can lead only in partnership with other stakeholders, specially emerging countries. However, the challenges facing Asia as a whole are enormous and should not be underestimated.

Asia needs a roadmap of priorities and resource allocation to answer our challenges and it needs also leadership to establish and implement this roadmap, strengthening peaceful relations.

I believe that time has come for Asia to lead and guide the world while navigating the challenges of the 21st Century.

Asian leaders should consider a 30-year Asian Road Map for integrated, sustainable Human Development including goals of eradicating poverty, illiteracy, TB, malaria, etc. and restore the wealth and health of our forests, rivers and seas.

With half the world's population, Asians extract a lot more from our Planet to satisfy our needs of survival and development than any other peoples of the world.

For our own survival, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters from other parts of the world, we must act with vision and determination, we must do a lot more to free our people from extreme poverty and save our common Planet.

Together China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the rich Gulf countries, have an unparalleled pool of know-how and financial resources to transform Asia in a prosperous, peaceful and happy region for the 4 billion that live in our region that spreads from Istanbul to Jakarta, Timor-Leste and the Pacific Islands.

Our American and European brothers are enduring great sacrifices to overcome the crisis that is lingering on since 2008.

We should sympathize with them and not gloat over their difficulties and pain. And I'm convinced that the USA and Europe will rise again stronger from this crisis.

The USA and Europe still lead in Science and Technology and they should invest even more on education, research and new technologies.

But Asia should create its own Fund, the Asian Fund for Sustainable Development, that can be managed by an existing institution such as the Asian Development Bank, in partnership with UN Specialized Agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, or NGO's with good regional or international reputation such as OXFAM.

Each country should mandatorily contribute to such a Fund, according to their GDP. Maybe the various claimant States in the South China Sea dispute should agree to turn the whole area into a ***Zone of Peace and Joint Development***.

Revenues from the oil, gas and other wealth extracted from the area would go to such a Fund to be allocated and invested in the whole of Asia with a view to attaining our common dream of eliminating extreme poverty, preventable illnesses, illiteracy, saving our forests, rivers, lakes and seas.

In few words, rather than engaging in dangerous brinkmanship and saber rattling, the claimant States in the South China Seas should engage in dialogue, build bridges of understanding and search for common ground beneficial to all in Asia.

Asian leaders should rise to the challenges of the 21st Century, to the dreams and hopes of a peaceful and dignified life for our people, and lead with vision and courage.

Asia is the most populous region in the world: we represent half of humanity; the largest, oldest, richest civilizations appeared and met in Asia. Only 50 years ago our region was extremely poor. Today Asia emerges as a center of world power and the 21st century could be Asia's century; we have the brainpower, advanced technology and financial means to make this dream come true.

We cannot continue to demand from the ageing and impoverished Europe and today's less powerful USA to come to our rescue and lead, much less we should take part in pointing fingers at industrialized countries for the ills of our planet.

If Europeans and Americans contributed the most to environmental degradation in the last 100 years, truth be told, they also contributed the most towards advances in Medicine, Science and Technology to all of Humanity's benefit.

Asians, from this vast region that extends from the doors of Constantinople to Dili, a region of great civilizations, religions and cultures, of great challenges and great possibilities, should unite and act responsibly to correct the mistakes inherited from the past and those of the present and adopt a Road map to build a Future of Peace, Freedom and Prosperity.

The XXIst Century will be Asia's Century, Asia's Age of Enlightenment, if a new Mahatma Gandhi emerges, who inspires and leads all, the 4 billion people of this vast region that extends from the doors of Constantinople to Dili, a region of great civilizations, religions and cultures, of great challenges and great possibilities; we need a new Mahatma Ghandi to unite us, to inspire, to have the courage to overcome the shackles of the past, face the present and adopt a Road map to build a Future of Peace, Freedom and Prosperity.

I pray to God, The Almighty and the Merciful, to continue to bless us all.



CURRICULUM VITAE

His Excellency José Ramos – Horta
Under-Secretary-General
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General
Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau (West Africa)

Born on 26 December 1949 in Dili, East Timor

Political Achievements

Member, Council of State, an Advisory Body to the President of the Republic of Timor Leste', (current)

President of the Republic of Timor Leste' (2007 - 2012)

Prime Minister, Minister of Defence (2006-2007)

Senior Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (2002-2006)

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information, in the first Govt proclaimed in December 1975 following Timor-Leste's Unilateral Declaration of Independence, and Representative, Spokesperson, for the Resistance (1975-1999).

Cabinet Member, United Nations Transition Administration for East Timor - UNTAET (2000-2002)

Vice-President, Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), since September 2012. APRC, with Secretariat in Bangkok, comprises leaders from Asia working on second track diplomacy and mediation.

Mediation

Negotiated with hostage takers in Colombia in 1998, successfully secured release of 15 hostages held by the Ejercito de Liberación Nacional (ELN);

Special Envoy of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries

CPLP - mediating the conflict in the West African country Guinea-Bissau, 2003, 2004.

Mediated numerous disputes and conflicts in Timor-Leste over more than 10 years, ranging from youth gang violence and land disputes to crisis within the military, police and political elites.

Conceived the "Dili, City of Peace" Campaign, Dili International Marathon, Tour de Timor, Anti-Poverty Initiatives, etc.

Academic Achievements

Member, Honorary Advisory Council of the Institute for Global Law and Policy at Harvard University, 2012 - current

Doctorate candidate, International Relations, Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal (2007 -)

Diploma, Executive Program, Leaders in Development, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (1998)

Senior Associate Member, International Relations, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford (1987)

Master of Arts in Peace Studies, Antioch University, Ohio, USA (1984)

Advanced Diploma, Public Relations, Centro Internacional de Marketing (1970-1974).

Attended and completed courses in Public International Law, The Hague Academy of International Law, International Human Rights Law, The International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg (1983).

Doctor Honoris Causa from Universities in Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, the Philipinnes, Brazil, Portugal, USA.

Founding President, Diplomacy and Human Rights Programme, DTP, Law Faculty, University of New South Wales, Sydney, since 1990. Lectured on United Nations system; created and directed UN Security Council models.

Visiting Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney, since 1996.

Distinguished Visiting Professor, Victoria University, Melbourne, since 2007.

Visiting Professor, Ewa Women International University, Seoul, 2007-2012.

Membership in Major International Organisations

Club of Madrid, Madrid

Global Leadership Foundation, London

Ocean Security Initiative/ Iniciativa para la Seguridad de los Océanos (OSI), Cartagena, Colômbia

Global Fairness Initiative, Washington, DC

High Level Panel, Save the Dream Programme, an initiative of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and International Centre for Sport Security, aimed at restoring faith in Olympic Sports, Doha, Qatar.

Languages

Besides mother-tongues Tetum and Portuguese, fluent English, French and Spanish.

Major Awards

Order of Timor-Leste (2012)

Order of Dom Boaventura (2006)

Nobel Peace Prize (1996)

Orders from Portugal, Brazil, Cuba, Cape Verde

Numerous other international awards

Books and Other Writings

FUNU: The Unfinished Saga of East Timor, Red Sea Press, Trenton, NJ, USA, 1987;

Timor-Leste: Amanha em Dili, Dom Quixote, Lisbon, 1994;

The Lost World of Timor-Leste, Ministry Education, UNICEF, Dili, Timor-Leste (2010), A children's story book written with Patricia Vickers-Rich, and illustration by Peter Trusler (300,000 copies so far in 16 languages);

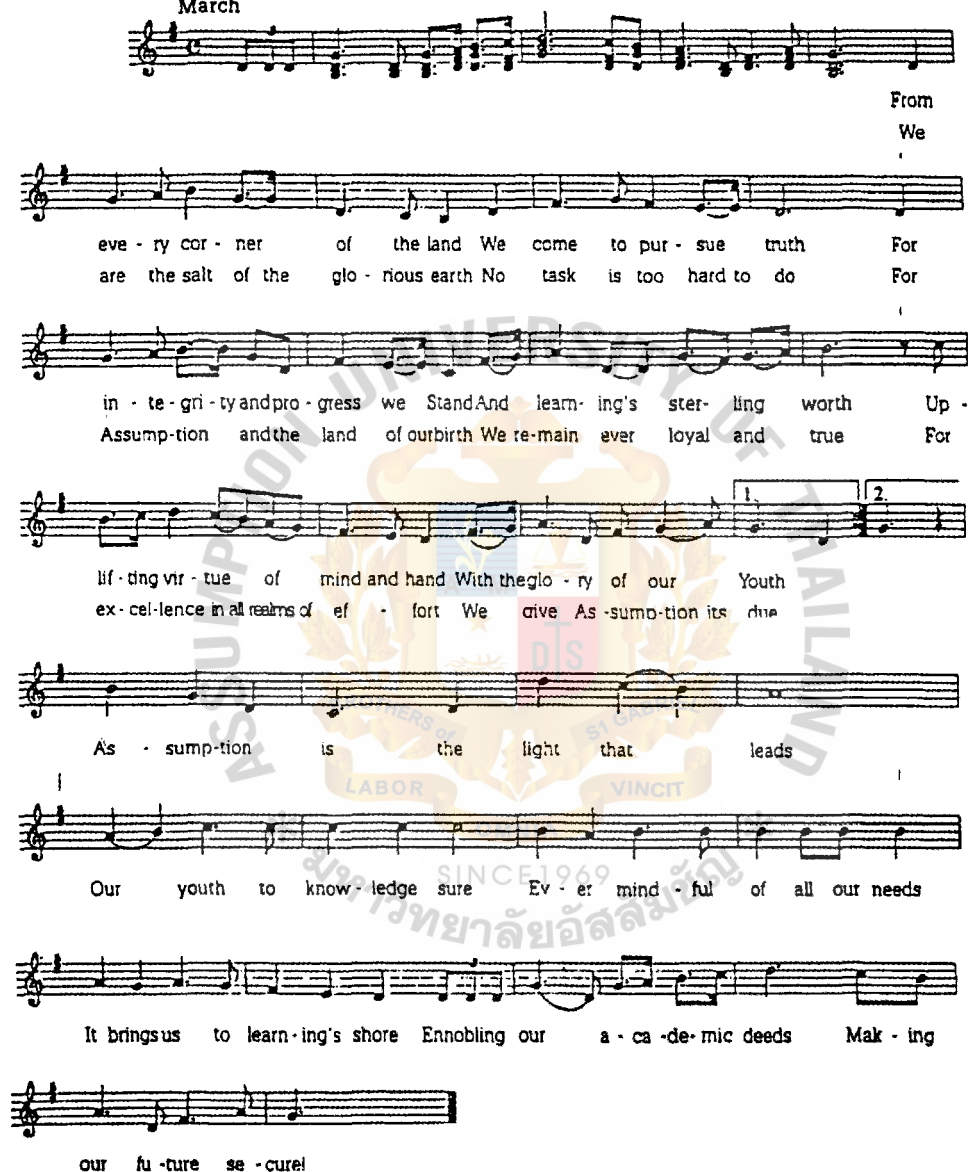
A Matter of Principle: Humanitarian Arguments for War in Iraq by Thomas Cushman (Editor) with Christopher Hitchens, José Ramos-Horta and others. Editor Paperback, 1st Edition, 372 pages. Published July 11th 2005 by University of California Press;

Written extensively on international affairs for the *International Herald Tribune*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Huffington Post*, *The Daily Beast/Newsweek*, etc.

Assumption University Anthem

Lyric : Thomas Khng
Music : Lian Sek Lin

March



From
We
eve - ry cor - ner of the land We come to pur - sue truth For
are the salt of the glo - rious earth No task is too hard to do For
in - te - gri - ty and pro - gress we Stand And learn - ing's ster - ling worth Up -
Assump - tion and the land of our birth We re - main ever loyal and true For
lif - ting vir - tue of mind and hand With the glo - ry of our Youth
ex - cel - lence in all realms of ef - fort We give As - sump - tion its due
As - sump - tion is the light that leads
Our youth to know - ledge sure Ev - er mind - ful of all our needs
It brings us to learn - ing's shore Ennobling our a - ca - de - mic deeds Mak - ing
our fu - ture se - cure!

สดุดีอัลลัมฮ์

คำร้อง

: ชิสเตอร์บุญเรือน หมั่นทรัพย์
วิสุทธิพร สันตศิริ

ทำนอง

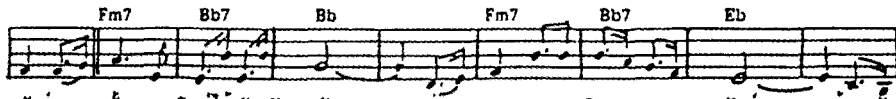
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เรียบเรียงเสียงประสาน : น.อ. วีระพันธ์ วอกลาง

MDD March



ก้อง กัง วาน ขาน ไช ชื่น - ชม พวก เรา น้ำเงิน ขาว แดง เด่น สด - สี ส้ม



พันธ นาม - นัน ส - ดิตยไว อัล ลัม ฮ์ หลง - รวณ สรรพ วิท - ยา อ - นันต์ - ด้วยศรัท



อา นู ชา ชาติ ศาสณ ก - ชัตริย์ นอมม - นัล เทิด ทูน ส - ตา - บัน - อด



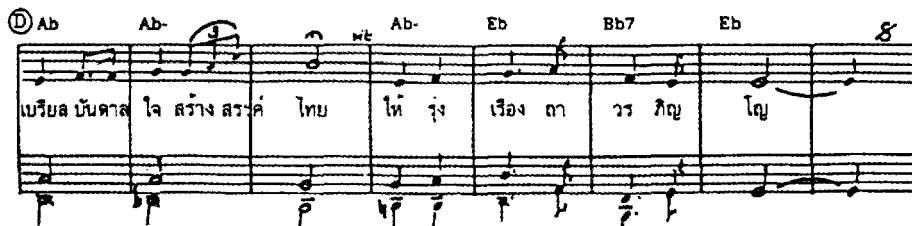
ทน ชื่อ - สัตย์ พวก - เทียรเรา ภูมิ ใจ ป - นิ อาน ยึด มั่น ไว้ - คุงประ

Hum..... Hum..... Hum..... ยึด มั่น ไว้ คุงประ



ทิป สองส - ว่าง สอง ทาง กระ จ้าง พ้า สี่ ความ งด งาม สด สี - เซนตศา

ทิป สองส - ว่าง สอง ทาง กระ จ้าง พ้า Hum..... สด ใจ



เบรียล บันดาล ใจ สร้าง สรรค์ ไทย ให้ รุ่ง เรือง ภา วรรณ ฤณ โย

