

WELCOME REMARKS

Armindo Maia, Director of HRC-UNTL

Good morning!

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Dear Participants,

It is a great pleasure and honour to extend our warmest Welcome on behalf of the Human Rights Centre-UNTL to Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, and our Dear Participants of this 33rd Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training Program. This is the third edition that is being held in Timor-Leste, and we are proud to be the co-host of this important program along with our friends from Justice System Monitoring Program (JSMP) and our partners Global Campus of Human Rights and the Diplomatic Training Program.

Before continuing, I'd like to acknowledge the presence of His Excellency the Ambassador of Thailand in Timor-Leste, and thank HE for gracing us with his presence. The HRC-UNTL has strong links with the Mahidol University in Thailand through the regional Global Campus in that university. Thank you sir.

I'd like also to acknowledge the presence of the Secretary General of MNEC, Timor-Leste, Mr. Juvencio Martins, for honouring us with his presence

Prof Mike from Gobar Campus, Mahidol University and Prof Lucas Luxinski, Vice Dean of UNSW, Australia for being with us today.

And, of course, our Rector, for his unwavering support to the HRC, while navigating the challenges in leading the university. My sincere thanks also goes to the VR and the Dean of the Fac of Social Sciences for your support and cooperation.

This morning Opening Ceremony and today's session is taking place in this old university building, which is a historical site full of memories of events related to human rights violations from the past as well as a memorial of resurgence, as many anti-occupation demonstrations were held in this building by students and the Timorese youth. If you come through the main entrance there is a memorial plaque on your left that reminds you of the historical importance of this building.

But, more importantly, a warm welcome again to this 33rd edition of Diplomatic Training Program. For those of you who happen to be here for the first time, we wish you a pleasant stay over the next two weeks and to enjoy the warmth of Dili and its beaches, or the spectacular view from the hills up in Dare. Together with our friends from JSMP, Global Campus and DTP, we will try to do our best to make your stay a pleasant one.

And most importantly, to bring home what you will learn from this program and put it into practice in your workplace, networking and making friends.

Thank you. Obrigado.