

Welcome

Thank you to all who involved in making this possible of the new newsletter and logo design.

I would like to applaud the great work of our previous board and current board as well as fellow alumni whom, in one way or another continuously giving their support, dedication and time for keeping TL3A active particularly before, during and after the state of emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The state of emergency situation had put pressure on every sector, but it did not totally stop the alumni to engage more in activities that support the community through partnership with the relevant government entities, which align with the government's as well as TL3A's strategic plan.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to actively participating in our association. The annual planning day is coming, I hope you stay tune. We would love to hear more inputs and amazing activities from you all.

Thank you and stay safe.



Content

- AGM January-Introducing the board members and congratulating them and Thanking Previous board members
- President Marcia e Silva Exposto short profile
- TL3A on RTTL with Marcia Exposto e Silva
- TL3A COVID-19 responses activities-liquid hand soap to 5 sukus, MoH collaborations, Water Sanitation Directorate collaboration, Dr. Raimundo dos Santos COVID-19 activities at 7 health centers, talk show COVID-19 impact on Education, Religion and disability sector
- Sectoral groups activity-Education sector, agriculture sector Roni Pati Tpoi, and health sector Dr. Raimundo DVRI at 3 higher education institutions
- Congratulations to Alumni who received high level position 2020
- TL3A contact details

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting 2020 was conducted on 25 of January 2020, the event started at 8.30am with registration and ended at 12.30pm. Alumni who attended the Annual General Meeting, cast their vote for the newly elected 2020-2022 board members. Former TL3A President Alberto Piedade gave

a speech thanking DFAT, WDPTL team and the alumni secretariat for their support, in addition he wished good luck to the newly elected board members for the 2020-2022 period and encouraged alumni to participate in future activities.

Introducing the board members 2020-2022



The newly elected board members for 2020-2022 as follows:

- President Board members **Marcia Exposto**, National consultant for Community Forestry Project and Communication Officer at FAO
- Vice President **Felix Piedade**, Chief Operating Officer, g7+

- Board member **Armandina Gusmão**, Technical Lead Health Sector, PHD
- Board member **Joaquim Soriano Viana (Ule)**, Coordinator - Rural Development (Agriculture), DFAT
- Board member **Francisco Amaral**, Head of Exploration, Accelerator Lab Timor-Leste, UNDP

Thank you for the board members 2018-2019:

Alberto Piedade, TL3A board president

Acacio Pinto, TL3A Vice President
Carmeneza Monteiro, board member

Samantha Abel, Board member
Joaquim Soriano Viana (Ule), board member

Kafé Dader RTTL with TL3A



Marcia Exposto e Silva, TL3A president was invited to represent the TL3A, feature on *Kafé Dader* to talk about the work of the TL3A.

The show was a great opportunity for the TL3A to promote our visibility in public and we'd like to thank RTTL for inviting TL3A to be on the *Kafé Dader Show*. During the show Marcia outlined the TL3A's activities pre COVID-19 and how we've redirected our focus to support the government's COVID-19 response.

TL3A COVID-19 responses activities

During COVID-19 the TL3A redirected the focuses of our work toward the COVID-19 response. On April 14, 2020, Marcia Exposto e Silva, TL3A president handed over the first batch of materials comprising 600 posters for COVID-19 information (code 01,02,03), 7 megaphones and 100 hygiene kits to Ministry of Health, Pillar II. The second batch of materials were delivered by the TL3A Vice President, Felix Piedade, materials included 600 posters (01,02,03), 1,500 cloth masks, and 200 gloves. The hand over to the MoH was attended by Pillar II Coordinator Castilos C. Freitas from MoH and his team at 16.00, Caicoli, Dili.



Talk shows “Ita nia bainaka” with TL3A

The alumni Talk show on the Impact of COVID-19 on Education, Religion and People with Disability aired on 29 June 2020, has already reached 3.8K views on Facebook. Moderated by our fellow alumni, Geraldo Ximenes, panel members included alumni Dr Pedro Ximenes representing the Education sector, alumni Dulce da Cunha representing the disability sector, and to give the religious perspective TL3A invited Pe. Ângelo Salsinha, Chief of Pastoral for combating COVID-19 and social services Dili Diocese. The program included a sign language interpreter, AAS awardee Eufrazia de Menezes organised by panellist Dulce da Cunha who is currently working as a Disability Project Advisor at PHD.

To watch the talk show please go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuUeG--nqlg>



TL3A donated liquid hand soap to 5 sukus

To help local communities maintain good hygiene the TL3A donated hand soap to five village offices, located close to crowded markets and terminals in Dili, Bairro-Pite, Comoro, Becora, Kuluhun and Madohi. The hand soap delivery was made on 9th June at the time the Government’s State of Emergency subsidy was being given out to the community and when lots of people were coming from sub-villages to their village office to collect their subsidy payment.

The timing made sure that people had enough hand washing soap to use at hand washing stations at the village’s offices. A total of 55 boxes were delivered to the village offices, with each receiving 11 boxes. Xefe Suku Bairo Pite, Sr. João Baptsita da Costa Belo said, “*Thank you to the association that has provided hand washing soap, this will greatly help our village and moreover in the near future there will be payment of subsidies in this village where many people will gather here.*”

We also received positive feedback from Suku Madohi, Xefe Suku Madohi, Bernadino Cristo who said, “*this is a very good contribution to assist us with the hand wash stations and public hand wash station in our village, the community can prevent themselves from the corona virus and thank you for completing the needs of our village to support community.*”

Water tanks for Water and Sanitation Directorate



Twenty water tanks were delivered to the Water and Sanitation directorate on 16 June. These tanks will now be allocated to target areas by the Directorate. The handover of the materials was attended by Chief of Department of Water and Sanitation Support, Francisco Afonso at Water and Sanitation office’s garage in Colmera. The symbolic handover was accompanied by Vice President of TL3A and TL3A secretariat office.

Dr. Raimundo Prize

In December last year Dr. Raimundo dos Santos won the first ever Alumni of the year award, The award included prize money of \$3000 redeemable for personal development or a community activity of his choice. Raimundo originally planned to use his prize money to cover some specialist training in India but due to COVID-19 he redirected the funds to provide training for junior doctors and health professionals at seven health centres in Dili, Formosa, Vera Cruz II, Comoro, Becora, Atauro and Metinaro health centers and the clinic at Bairro Pite.

TL3A Board members decided to assist Dr. Raimundo's activity with additional funds taking into account the importance of his activity. Dr. Raimundo stated that *"It has been a great opportunity to serve our community by expanding the knowledge and skills of managing Covid-19 clinically to our health professional at community health centers and to prepare them for possible community transmission of the pandemic hitting Timor-Leste in the future. It was such a great feeling working with the team to realise this amazing activity, again thank you very much. In a country like ours, we just need to have good containment systems, enabling every health personnel to manage well the mild cases and moderate cases of COVID-19 with simple preventive measures and right initial management with simple oxygen therapy, prophylactic antibiotics and maintained immunity defence."*



Small grant round 6



The first batch of Alumni small grants round 6 was conducted in January in Luro, Lospalos by disability advocate Monrique Reis. Working with the community Monrique discussed the impact of discriminatory language on people with disabilities and worked with them to develop a non-discriminatory language poster and booklet, which was distributed to six villages in Lospalos.

Monrique said that, *"In Timor-Leste people often call and refer to people with disabilities by the type of disability they have, without thinking about the negative impact this creates. I chose to study Disability and Development Education and applied for grant funding because I want to help people with disabilities in Timor-Leste to know their rights and to help people without disabilities to relate to people by focusing on their abilities not their disabilities."*



Another small grant was allocated to alumni, Celestina Magno and Imaculada Lobo Belo for a nutrition-based project in Bobonaro. The first activity was conducted in Bobonaro, 8 of February and followed by 14 of March 2020. The activity is a community development project-activity aims to support nutrition sensitive intervention which is aligned with nutrition strategy 2014-2019.

Outcome of this project is to empower women and create employment opportunity especially women in rural area in Bobonaro.

Congratulations to Alumni who received high level positions in 2020!!

Carmeneza dos Santos Monteiro - Commissioner for Civil Service Commission

Armindo Maia for Minister of Education, Youth and Sport - former Minister of Education First Constitutional Government

Sectoral group activities photos



Education sector - induction program for unemployment youth in February 2020



Agriculture sector - Roni Pati Tpoi on promoting cook stove in Metinaro



Health sector - Dr. Raimundo on his DVRI information session at three higher education institutions

Introducing Marcia Exposto e Silva, President of TL3A 2020-2022



Elected in January 2020 for 2020-2022 period. She graduated from University of New England Armidale. Master of Science in Agriculture Major in agronomy and minor in Soil Science. She stated *"I believe that Agriculture is one of the important sectors in Timor-Leste. I hope that by majoring this course, I could participate in helping Timor-Leste address some of the issues particularly in nutrition and climate-sensitive agriculture and food security aspect."*

Marcia also commented on her experiences studying in Australia, *"It's outstanding. I am so grateful to be one of the lucky ones to have the opportunity to experience such high standard education system."* Currently Marcia is working as National consultant for Community Forestry Project and Communication Officer at FAO.

Australian education system provides her with experiences that she could use to contribute to her current workplace Marcia agreed that the education system in Australia helps her professionally and personally. In addition, she stated that *"personally, after exposing to a developed country with such diversity, I found*

myself to be more open-minded, flexible and confident. Professionally, I feel fired up and full of ideas to participate in the development of Timor-Leste."

There are also challenges she faced during her study, Marcia said *"I found it difficult to keep up with the education system at first. We were trained to put our ideas into writing, which is definitely the opposite of what I have had previously. Also, exposing to an on-line education system could be quite complicated. But the best thing is, services for students are excellent, thus these problems were solved eventually."* She added some tricks to face the challenges, *"I approached the Academic skill office (a service for student on academic related matter). Seek help from my lecturers and also classmates for some discussion."*

Moreover, Marcia is happy to share some tips on how to prepare for scholarship *"well, my tip is just one, do research! I was a 2017 intake, but I prepared myself long before that. I prepared myself one year before hand (2015). I believe everyone needs different length of time for preparation (could be shorter or longer, in my case longer). So, I read the manual to know the condition, the eligibility criteria. I also did research on what course could be relevant to Timor-Leste needs and national concern. So, I chose Agriculture. And of course, it should be aligned with your interest too."* Marcia is future oriented and she has some ideas in mind and will explore more, at this point she hope that in the future she could become an influencer and to inspire young people especially women in leadership.

Marcia also provides her message on how TL3A could contribute more in TL development *"we have alumni association called TL3A, where there are 5 sectoral groups that every alumnus can join based on their expertise or interest. This sectoral groups are formed with the thought that they are the most needed part to be approach in the community. And our goal is to give back to the community of what we have learned in Australia."*

Alumni Secretariat Office

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📘 TL3A (Timor-Leste Australia Alumni Association)