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## CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION MEETING

On 19 October 2015, following the UN General Assembly in New York, the Consultative Commission held another meeting in Dili, which was led by the Prime Minister Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, with active participation from members of the Commission.

The meeting began with a presentation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and concluded with a presentation from TIMOR GAP.

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## SECOND MARITIME CONSULTATIONS WITH INDONESIA

From 29 to 30 October 2015, the second round of consultations between the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Republic of Indonesia were held in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Both sides discussed and agreed on the principles and guidelines for the forthcoming negotiations. Both sides also discussed and agreed on a joint work plan which emphasised the distinct phases in the delimitation negotiations.

As agreed in the first consultation meeting, the two nations will work in the spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation. Both parties also affirmed that the boundary should be negotiated in accordance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Timor-Leste was represented by delegations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Maritime Boundary Office and the President's Office. The maritime boundary negotiations at the technical level will start in the first quarter of 2016.



Timor-Leste delegation (left) with Indonesian delegation (right)



Over 200 participants attend the presentation



Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Exposto encourages everyone to share the information on Maritime Boundaries with friends and family.

## PRESENTATION TO VETERANS IN BAUCAU

On 19 November 2015, the Maritime Boundary Office was invited to give a presentation to the veterans in Suku Badomori, Venilale, Baucau.

The objective of the presentation was to raise awareness of Timor-Leste's efforts to delimit maritime boundaries with its two neighbours; Australia and Indonesia.

Ms Inês Almeida, Prime Minister's Liaison Officer for Veterans Affairs, called on the participants to be united and supportive of the Government on this matter. Mr Rolex, the Secretary General of the Veterans encouraged the Maritime Boundary Office to deliver the presentation on a regular basis throughout Timor-Leste.

One of the young attendees, Domingos Correia, referring to Minister Gusmão's speech at the IPI Event in New York noted that "even if our sea only had crabs or shrimps, they belong to us. We will defend them."

The Maritime Boundary Office also distributed information materials in Tetun to the participants regarding Timor-Leste's maritime boundaries claims.

## LONDON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

From 30 November to 2 December 2015, the Maritime Boundary Office, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, participated in the London International Boundary Conference with the theme "Exploring an Integrated Approach to International Boundary and Territorial Questions."

The conference was a not-for-profit event, hosted by Volterra Fietta, King's College of London (Department of Geography), Marbdy Consulting Ltd and Maritime Zone Solutions Ltd.

The speakers were world leading experts and practitioners in the effective resolution of territorial disputes. Participants came from all over the world and from various professions, including law, academia and diplomacy.

(L-R) Felismina dos Reis, Maritime Boundary Office, Lisualdo Gaspar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with Dr Robin Cleverly of Marbdy Consulting Limited at the Royal Geographical Society, London on 2 December 2015.



## PRESENTATION AT TIMORESE RESISTANCE ARCHIVE & MUSEUM

On 2 December 2015, set against the historical backdrop of the National Resistance Museum, the Maritime Boundary Office delivered a presentation to a large group of visiting students from Curtin University, Western Australia. Members of the Veterans community and representatives from the Prime Minister's office also attended the presentation.

Ms Elizabeth Exposto, Chief Executive Officer of Maritime Boundary Office gave a wide-reaching talk on the history of the Timor Sea disputes and an update on Timor-Leste's negotiations with Indonesia and attempts to engage with Australia. The students were passionate about the issue and grew even more eager as the Maritime Boundary Office explained, in plain terms, the history of the Timor Sea and why Timor-Leste is seeking maritime boundaries under international law.



Maritime Boundary Office with the attendees at the Timorese Resistance Archive & Museum on 2 December 2015

## PRESENTATION TO VETERANS IN AILEU

On 29 December 2015, the Maritime Boundary Office was again invited to present to the veterans, this time in Aramerí, Suku Liurai, Aileu on the progress of the negotiations on the maritime boundaries with Australia and Indonesia.

This was an opportunity for the Maritime Boundary Office to explain the history of the Timor Sea agreements with Australia from 1972 until 2006.

Ms Inês Almeida, Prime Minister's Liaison Officer for Veterans Affairs, referenced Minister Xanana Gusmão's comments from the State budget discussion that we must be united to fight for our full sovereignty, and that delimiting our maritime boundaries with Australia and Indonesia would complete our sovereignty as a nation.



Australia and Indonesia created the Timor Gap. (L-R) Felismina dos Reis, Suzana Gusmão and Ms Ines Almeida