



**Strengthening Independent Media Program
in Timor-Leste**

Cooperative Agreement: 486-A-00-06-00013-00

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT #4

Reporting Period: April 1 – June 30, 2007

Submitted to:
USAID/TIMOR-LESTE

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July 30, 2007

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by the International Center for Journalists and its Strengthening Independent Media Program in Timor-Leste project staff.

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1.0 Introduction

The International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) is pleased to submit this 4th quarterly report on the Strengthening Independent Media Program in Timor-Leste (SIMPTL) to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in compliance with Article A.5 of the cooperative agreement.

This 4th quarterly report covers the period from April 1 to June 30, 2007.

The report summarizes activities that took place during this quarter including: hiring new Program Staff and replacing key personnel due to unforeseen circumstances; continued cooperation with, and increased buy-in, from local media partners; implementation of a comprehensive presidential and parliamentary elections program; activity updates for TLMI's Journalism Training Team, Media Analysis Team and Special Projects Team; and media law work with ICFJ's subcontractor, IREX.

2.0 Program Goals

The main goal of SIMPTL is to support the long-term development of a more professional and sustainable independent media sector in Timor-Leste. The Program aims to improve Timorese journalists' ability to deliver better quality news and programming and to enable more Timorese citizens to access media-generated news and information. A core effort is to train future Timorese journalism trainers. Another important initiative is to ensure that Timorese media professionals will have a say in the creation of the nation's media laws and broadcast regulations, and to play their crucial role in the development of an enabling environment in which they will operate. The program also seeks to increase media independence by helping media outlets enhance their marketing and business management efforts.

During this quarter, the Program also delivered training, coordination and assistance to improve elections coverage of the first and second rounds of presidential elections on April 9 and May 9, 2007, and of parliamentary elections on June 30, 2007. This effort improved the Timorese media community's ability to produce responsible and accurate coverage of the elections. It also enabled a fuller participation of Timor-Leste voters in the election of a new government of their choosing. Most importantly, the media community gained experience and confidence in providing more professional coverage of a national event. Timorese journalists learned invaluable lessons that make them better prepared to cover other major national events in the future.

3.0 Summary of Results

During this period, ICFJ accomplished the following:

- Completed hiring of TLMI personnel, with a total of 31 Timorese on staff.
- Implemented Phase 1 of the Trainer Training Program for 10 Timorese trainers, 3 of them women.

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- Conducted a large-scale election coverage program, including training for over 40 journalists, 12 of them women.
- Organized and implemented the first ever presidential and parliamentary elections pool coverage in Timor-Leste with the participation of national and local Timorese media.
- Established a media analysis program that will provide feedback to Timorese media.

4.0 Milestones

- April 2, 2007: Operations Manager Fernando Da Silva starts work at ICFJ.
- April 2, 2007: Antonio Soares is hired to support elections and to head the Business Development Team.
- April 4, 2007: ICFJ/CNE Elections Media Center (EMC) is launched.
- April 5, 2007: Media Analysis Team begins analyzing three daily and one weekly newspapers.
- April 7– 26, 2007: the EMC receives over 678 visitors representing 40 media outlets (23 international and 21 national); 18 press conferences are held (14 by CNE, three by observer missions, one by US Embassy); more than 47 press releases, fact sheets, and other documentation from 12 different elections stakeholders are distributed through the EMC.
- April 5–6, 2007: 41 East Timorese journalists receive training on election coverage in a two-day seminar in Dili.
- April 9, 2007: National media outlets participate in their first ever election pool coverage.
- April 8 –11, 2007: 30 print and radio journalists provide continuous coverage of the Presidential elections from 6 district capitals.
- April 8 – 11, 2007: 33 stories are produced and broadcast on radio stations in Dili (including RTL) and three feature election stories are published in newspapers.
- April 12, 2007: ICFJ Deputy Country Director meets with representatives from AJTL, Sindicato, RTTL, ARKTL, TILPA, TLMDC, the Asia Foundation and the Justice System Monitoring Program (JSMP). Copies of the Draft Media Law and the legal analysis prepared by Washington-based law firm Covington & Burley, in Indonesian, are distributed to attendees.
- April 18, 2007: Final results of presidential elections are announced by all CNE commissioners from the SIMPTL-funded EMC.
- April 20 – May 21, 2007: ICFJ extends lease of premises and hands over EMC operations to CNE to run elections-related activities during second round of presidential elections.
- April 24, 2007: ICFJ/IREX employ Francisco Pinto, former Dili and Suai District Courts Judge, as the Media Law Coordinator.
- May 6, 2007: Short-term consultants Zack Alpern (media analysis) and Vanessa Johanson (election pool coverage) complete their assignments.

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- May 17, 2007, ICFJ Deputy Country Director and Media Law Coordinator meet with Sofia Calado, Government Media Law Advisor. They are informed that media law draft is in Parliament and her contract to work on the draft law expires on May 21, 2007.
- May 24, 2007: ICFJ Deputy Country Director and Media Law Coordinator facilitate media law workshop with media managers.
- May 28, 2007: SIMPTL Draft Safety Plan is completed.
- May 30, 2007: Country Director, Thomas Willard, leaves the program and Dili for health reasons.
- May 30, 2007: Journalism Trainer Training Consultant, Lisa Schnellinger, leaves the program to accompany Thomas Willard.
- June 1–4, 2007: Parliamentary elections pool coverage team leaders and Dili media editors receive election pool coverage training.
- June 4, 2007 – Julia Davey, IREX consultant, arrives in Dili to spend two weeks working with Francisco Pinto, ICFJ/IREX Media Law Coordinator and to meet media community leaders to discuss approaches to media law development in Timor-Leste.
- June 8-9, 2007: ICFJ and IFES hold training session in Dili for 49 journalists (37 men and 12 women) participating in pool coverage teams (including team leaders, editors and reporters). Participants were also briefed on the role of parliament and the process of elections.
- June 11–27, 2007: ICFJ trainers travel to six districts to conduct in-house training at community radio stations for their pool coverage reporters.
- June 12, 2007: ICFJ signs MOUs with 13 media outlets (9 community radio stations, one district-based (Oecusse) newspaper and two Dili newspapers that want to participate in pool coverage of the 2007 parliamentary elections.
- June 15, 2007: IREX consultant, Julia Davey, completes assignment. She is scheduled to return at least one more time before October 2007.
- June 16, 2007: Doug Cosper, ICFJ Interim Country Director, arrives in Dili to head SIMPTL.
- June 18–28, 2007: ICFJ trainers lead second round of training with editors.
- June 30, 2007: JTT trainers complete Phase I of journalism training program.
- June 30, 2007: Pool coverage of the parliamentary elections results in 26 news stories broadcast by nine community stations in six districts. Three print stories are published on the day after the elections and four follow-up stories are produced by community radio stations.

5.0 Technical Activities

- During this reporting period, SIMPTL hired additional core personnel, an Operations Manager, a Media Law Coordinator, a Business Development team member, and an additional Journalism Training Trainer.

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- ICFJ continued discussions on the “formalization” of TLMI’s Steering Committee. Due to the elections and the following government changes, in-depth discussions of the Committee’s Charter and Bylaws have been postponed at the request of media managers until August 2007.
- ICFJ completed Phase I of the JTT training with an emphasis on further developing trainers’ skills in specialized reporting and mentoring other Timorese journalists. Phase II is scheduled to begin in the first week of August, 2007. Increasingly, local trainers are doing more one-on-one and team coaching of other Timorese journalists. They conducted intensive training during preparations for pool coverage of the parliamentary elections. The plan is for local trainers to be accredited as journalism trainers and to start conducting formal training by early 2008. Throughout Phase II, local trainers will be coaching and moving towards formal training (August 2007 – March 2008).
- ICFJ implemented the planned presidential elections coverage program, including pool coverage, distribution of news from the districts on voting day, improved coverage of the tabulation and announcement of results, and the operation of an Elections Media Center in conjunction with CNE during the first and second rounds of the presidential elections. At the request of local media managers and journalists, ICFJ implemented a similar program for the parliamentary elections in six districts and worked with community radio stations to ensure that news bulletins from the districts were available to Dili media outlets. A major goal of the program was to enable local language coverage of elections in remote areas of the districts, focused on local issues.
- Preliminary research and planning, including site visits, has begun for the establishment of a village-level information access network that complements prior surveys and identifies potential projects to increase access by citizens living outside the capital to news and information.
- The Media Analysis Team (MAT) has begun producing reports based on daily analyses of four national newspapers. During the next quarter, this analysis will be extended to include broadcast media (radio and television).
- During this quarter the program planned the establishment of the Business Development Team which will take shape and start operating in the next quarter.
- ICFJ and IREX continued to facilitate and lead discussions on media law with key national stakeholders. A plan is in place outlining next steps that will be determined by the new government’s actions on a new media law.

6.0 Detailed Technical Activities

SIMPTL Program Activities

SIMPTL Office

ICFJ/SIMPTL Program Office is fully operational after the completion of site renovations in March 2007.

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SIMPTL Personnel

During this quarter, the Program saw the unforeseen departure of a few key staff members. Former SIMPTL Country Director Thomas Willard, having arrived to head the program at the end of January, left Dili at the end of May 2007 due to a serious health condition that required urgent medical attention. Lisa Schnellinger, who joined the program in February as the Journalism Training-of-Trainers Consultant, also left the program at the end of May to accompany Thomas Willard back home. At the end of May the Program also saw the departure of television journalism training advisor Kym Smithies. Cipriana Sousa, Finance Manager, also left the program at the end of June to join UNDP.

In April, ICFJ employed a full-time Operations Manager, Fernando da Silva, to complete the set-up of the operational and administrative systems for the Program. The Operations Manager has oversight of all operational, financial, and administrative aspects of the program. Da Silva is also in charge of security and was instrumental in drafting SIMPTL's Safety Plan. On April 2, the program also employed Antonio Soares, who will lead TLMI's Business Development Team (BDT). Soares was hired to help with election coverage and with research and planning for the establishment of the BDT. On April 24, 2007, ICFJ/IREX also employed Francisco Pinto, a former judge of the Dili and Suai Courts, to coordinate the Media Law activities of the program.

On June 16, Doug Cosper arrived in Timor to head the program as the Interim Country Director and to prepare the transition to SIMPTL's permanent Country Director, David Bloss, who is scheduled to arrive in Dili on August 1. In mid-September, Jody McPhillips will also join the program and will assume the role of ICFJ Trainer Training Consultant, replacing Lisa Schnellinger. She will be joined by ICFJ Knight International Journalism Fellow Maria Gabriela Carrascalao-Heard, who will also be involved in other SIMPTL training projects. (In all cases where Knight Fellows are mentioned in this report, ICFJ provides the trainer at no cost to USAID.)

Table 1 - New Program Personnel Hired during Quarter 2, 2007

Name	Title	Background
Antonio Soares	Business Development Team Leader	Business Administration University Degree from Indonesia (2006)
Fernando Conceição da Silva	Operations Manager	International experience with NGOs, professional experience in Operations, Human Resources, Administration. Has done radio training through the World Bank in 2002. Highly recommended by previous employers.
Francisco Pinto	Media Law Coordinator	Degree in Law from Indonesia (2002), former judge of Suai and Dili Courts.

TLMI & Steering Committee

As presented in ICFJ's work plan, the Timor-Leste Media Institute (TLMI) is intended to be the organizational home for SIMPTL activities. The Steering Committee (SC) is

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intended to provide insight, feedback and support for SIMPTL activities through its individual panels and governance through its officers. SC meetings are meant to be venues where officers and the general membership can gain experience working as a collective body to establish priorities and identify worthwhile projects. ICFJ staff and coordinators provide day-to-day management of projects and report on their progress to the SC during its regular meetings. While formal institutional arrangements are being drafted, ICFJ convenes and chairs these meetings.

Discussions about formalizing the Committee, as well as more in-depth reviews of a charter and bylaws have been put on hold until the next quarter at the request of Timorese media managers. During the last meeting of the SC at the end of March 2007, members voiced the concern that with media focusing on covering the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, they would be unable to devote the necessary attention to formalizing the activity of the SC. This reality was reflected in poor attendance and last-minute cancellation of SC meetings during this period. The fact that media managers were not available to attend formal SC meetings did not in any way impact participation by editors and reporters in the pool coverage of both the presidential and parliamentary elections.

Although no formal SC meetings were held during this quarter, ICFJ had individual discussions with SC members who remain interested in formalizing their activities. An SC meeting has been scheduled for August 9, 2007, and invitations have been distributed.

Media Professionalism and the Journalism Training Team (JTT)

In Quarters 1 and 2 (January – June 2007)
ICFJ/Knight Fellowships Journalism Trainer
Training Consultant Lisa Schnellinger and training
advisors Setyo Budi, Kym Smithies and Jesse
Wright designed, implemented and delivered Phase
I of the practical cycle of the Journalism Training
of Trainers (JTOT) component.

The core of SIMPTL's effort to enhance the professionalism of Timorese media is journalism training. Rather than importing a series of foreign journalism experts to conduct skills training, which has often been the approach taken by other media development organizations over the years in Timor-Leste, SIMPTL is training a number of senior Timorese journalists as trainers. These Timorese trainers will, in turn, provide training for their colleagues, improving their skills through production of real stories for publication and/or broadcast.

“The thing I am most proud of is the relatively short amount of time it has taken us to affect a handful of journalists in such a profound way. Carlos de Jesus, from the *Timor Post*, wrote a story about a journalist who was forbidden from talking to the polling staff by a police officer. In this story, he talks with the police captain in Dili (who acknowledges the problem) and a staff member at the Elections Technical Advisory Body as well as to a Timorese lawyer who is an expert in election law. The lawyer explains why it is against the law for the police to forbid a journalist to interview someone and why it is important for a journalist to have easy access to information.

This story took Carlos two days to do, but it wouldn't have been done at all if ICFJ hadn't been here.

Initially, he wanted to focus only on the fact that two policemen entered a polling place with a weapon, but I explained to him that was a problem that only affected a relatively small group of people, whereas the abrogation of media's civil liberties could affect everyone who looks to the media for information.” –

Jesse Wright
ICFJ Training Advisor (Print Media)

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JTOT- Phase I Practical Training

Phase I of the practical journalism training focused on guiding trainees in producing fair and balanced coverage of the elections. This experience enabled the future trainers to reinforce their core journalism skills and knowledge of core international journalism standards.

At the heart of the effort to certify Timorese trainers is ICFJ's practical, skills-based, production-oriented methodology which enables journalists to gain core skills very quickly (or build on the core skills they already possess). Classroom work proceeds with hour-long blocks of instruction focused on a specific trainer skill and featuring 10 to 20 minutes of explanation, followed by 5 to 10 minutes of demonstration and half an hour of practical exercises. This skills-based training is designed to be progressive, with later tasks building on earlier tasks. Once basic skills are mastered, advanced skills are taught using the same approach, which reinforces the basics. The result is a shorter learning curve, more visible results and more manageability.

While the methodology of Phase I of JTOT was rigorous and challenging, it was also flexible and adapted to local conditions. The original plan was to certify these trainers as close as possible to the *beginning* of the program (by Quarter 3 of 2007). However, accomplishment of this objective has since been postponed due to the need for continued improvement of trainers' core journalism skills prior to certification.

Lisa Schnellinger and her team of training advisors adapted the curriculum for Phase I of JTOT to suit the actual skill levels of the trainees. The experience of the past three months has shown that the actual skills of participants were lower than initially anticipated. Hence, during this quarter the program focused on reinforcing their core journalism skills through training on how to provide better coverage of both presidential and parliamentary elections. This allowed trainees to have a better command of international journalism standards.

Trainers are now scheduled to obtain certification as Journalism Trainers at the end of Phase II of JTOT in early 2008. This phase of training will start in the first week of August 2007. Delaying certification allows for an extended period of supervised experience with international trainers and for opportunities to train Timorese colleagues in their newsrooms in teams of two. Trainees will have ample time to practice their skills before they start conducting their own field-based reporting programs for print, radio and broadcast media.

JTOT Phase II Training

Prior to leaving the program at the end of May, ICFJ Journalism Trainer Training Consultant, Lisa Schnellinger, reviewed and evaluated JTOT with the program's management, trainers (international and national) (Attachment A). She also engaged Social Research NGO Insight to conduct a formal evaluation of Phase I of the JTOT

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component and to make recommendations for the Phase II of JTOT to begin in August this year.

Of the 10 trainees who participated in the JTOT Phase I, two journalists, Pedro de Oveira (Radio) and Nelio Isaac (TV) dropped from the program in June 2007. Discussions are ongoing about the possibility of a third trainee, Casemiro da Cruz (TV), to be replaced by another member of Television Timor-Leste (TVTL). The other seven trainees are eager to start the second phase of training in August 2007.

At the beginning of Phase 1, SIMPTL negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the public broadcaster Radio Television Timor-Leste (RTTL), to provide experienced radio and television journalists from Radio Timor-Leste (RTL) and TVTL for the trainer certification. A revised MOU will be formalized with the Board of RTTL during the next quarter that is reflective of the changes in trainees.

Considering that RTL has the greatest broadcast signal reach and TVTL is the only television provider in the country, working with the national broadcaster remains essential to improving the professionalism of Timorese media overall and to increasing the availability of high-quality news and information throughout the country. The trainees will remain RTTL employees and, once certified, will become in-house trainers for the public broadcaster. They will also be available for special programs initiated by ICFJ.

One addition to the JTT is Almerio Barros, who has been selected based on merit and professionalism as an editor during the pool coverage of the presidential elections. Barros had been scheduled for an interview as a potential trainee in February 2007, but missed the chance because he was on a reporting trip in the districts. Barros comes with a wealth of journalism experience in both radio and print and will be an important addition to the JTT.

Table 2 - ICFJ Trainees for Phase II of the JTOT as of June 30, 2007

Medium	Trainer Candidate	Organization
Radio	Paula Rodriguez	RTL
	Luis Gorzaga Amaral	RTL
	Alfredo de Araujo	Radio Comunidade Los Palos
	Almerio Barros	Freelancer, Radio (and Print)
TV	Pascoela dos Santos	TVTL
	Casemiro da Cruz	TVTL
Print	Carlos de Jesus	Timor Post
	Rita Gama de Almeida	Timor Post
	Afonso Xavier Pereira	Tempo Semanal

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Special Projects Team (SPT)

A five-member Special Projects Team (SPT) was formed in Quarter 1 of 2007. The SPT has a broad mandate as an integral part of TLMI's activities. Until now, the SPT has primarily provided logistical and administrative support for the establishment of the SIMPTL office and operations, and for elections-related projects. Now that the SIMPTL office is fully operational and elections completed, the SPT has initiated its own special projects.

In the three months covered in this report, the SPT was heavily engaged in the presidential and parliamentary elections coverage program, which included two rounds of presidential elections on April 9 and May 9 and the parliamentary elections on June 30, 2007. The team coordinated all the activities of this program, providing crucial logistical and administrative support. SIMPTL Deputy Country Director Emanuel Braz provided special project management training to team leader Francedes Suni throughout this program. Vanessa Johanson joined the program as the presidential elections coordinator to assist with the national pool coverage. Johanson came to the program as an ICFJ Knight International Journalism Fellow.

In addition to its work on the election program, the SPT has also begun researching and planning implementation of three new projects in the next quarter: 1) Information Access Network Design; 2) Establishment of a Media Support Center in Baucau; 3) Internal style guide for TLMI that will be used to promote the idea of a style book among media outlets. This effort is aimed at laying the groundwork for the adoption of unified writing standards for Timorese media.



Voting on June 30, at Escola Farol in Dili

program with key international and national stakeholders, finalized plans for training of journalists from national media outlets, and for providing logistical and administrative support through the SPT.

Presidential Elections Program

ICFJ began consulting key stakeholders on how to best support the media in providing good coverage of the presidential elections in December 2006. Senior program staff held

Coverage of 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

SIMPTL started working on this program at the end of last year through consultations with key stakeholders and Timorese media in particular. The plan for the election coverage program was formalized in February 2007 when SIMPTL held roundtable discussions on the

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more than two dozen coordination meetings to ensure that Timorese media had as much ownership as possible of the election pool coverage program. This was the first time the media community in Timor-Leste as a whole came together to cover a national event of such magnitude and significance. Coordination meetings were held with the media outlets so that they could present their needs for training and would understand the concept of pooled coverage of an election as well as the important role the media play during an election. From the very first meetings, it became apparent that the media in Timor-Leste did not have the necessary experience to coordinate the pool coverage. ICFJ was happy to organize and coordinate the coverage while Timorese media had a chance to develop and strengthen their skills in undertaking coverage of the elections. This training is ongoing and the crux of the mandate of the Journalism Training component of SIMPTL.

Consultations also included meetings with UNMIT's Chief Electoral Officer, UNMIT's PIO, UNDP Elections Project Officer, Media Advisors and Civic Education Advisors, STAE Civic Education Advisors, CEPPS partner NGOs including IFES, NDI, IRI and the Asia Foundation, observer groups from the New Zealand Electoral Commission and the European Commission, international and local media, and Timorese media development organization TLMDC.

As part of ICFJ's comprehensive Elections Coverage Program, ICFJ/Knight Fellow consultant Vanessa Johanson traveled to Dili in mid-March to coordinate pool coverage of the elections in six districts and to help run operations at a joint CNE/ICFJ Elections Media Center.

Elections Media Center (EMC)

ICFJ's initial plans to establish a Media Operations Center to coordinate the pool coverage of elections were superseded by an urgent request from the National Elections Commission (CNE) for ICFJ to support CNE with a facility in which it could hold its press conferences on elections-related activities for journalists and elections observers. ICFJ agreed to facilitate this, and an MOU was signed between CNE and ICFJ to that effect. The EMC was launched on April 4, 2007.

The EMC was set up to:

- Host daily press conferences by CNE at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.;
- Provide information to journalists including: elections fact sheets, statements, press releases and other materials from elections stakeholders including CNE, STAE, UN agencies, NGOs and observer groups.

Within three weeks, April 7-26, 2007, the EMC

- Hosted over 678 visitors, representing over 40 media outlets (23 of them international and 21 national), representatives from at least 12 embassies, representatives from at least four international and domestic observer missions, as well as other election stakeholders;

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- Facilitated 18 press conferences, 14 by CNE, three by observer organizations, and one by the US Embassy;
- Distributed over 47 press releases, elections reports, fact sheets and other relevant material from over 12 different elections stakeholders;
- Announced the final results of the April 9 presidential elections on April 18.

ICFJ handed over the operations and management of the EMC to CNE on May 1 for the second round of presidential elections held on May 9. The EMC continued to be supported by two IFES editors and one administrative staff while ICFJ continued to sponsor the space and facilities through May 20 to coincide with the inauguration of Timor-Leste's new president.



RTL reporter Nuno Saldanha interviews a voter in Oecusse on Presidential Election Day at 6 a.m. before the polls opened.

Presidential Elections Pool Coverage

ICFJ organized the first ever election pool coverage by national media in the history of Timor-Leste (Pool Coverage Summary, Attachment B). All efforts were made to mobilize all resources available for quality coverage by the Timorese media community. This initiative represents a substantial achievement for the local media community and for ICFJ.

Six teams of reporters from both print and broadcast media were trained by the JTT training advisors to provide coverage of the elections in six districts: Ermera, Manatuto, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima and the enclave of Oecusse. Teams were lead by

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designated Team Leaders from JTT and also from other main media outlets. Pool coverage reporters gathered newsworthy information around five specific categories of news:

1. Security
2. Voter Turnout
3. Process of voting, including counting
4. Fraud/intimidation/deliberate manipulation
5. What voters had to say

Throughout election day the six team leaders provided regular reports to the EMC Pool Coverage Team in Dili. Reports were edited and news bulletins (See Attachment C for a sample in Tetum) produced and disseminated to all participating media outlets for the production of election news stories.

Highlights of the presidential elections Pool Coverage Program include:

- A total of 41 journalists (nine of them women) participated in an ICFJ two-day training seminar in Dili on how to cover presidential elections;
- ICFJ trainers collaborated with IFES trainers to ensure Timorese journalists received the necessary information about the mechanics of the electoral process and were prepared to report on fraud or any other violations observed at polling stations during the pool coverage;
- From April 8 to 11, 30 print and radio journalists (seven of them women) provided continuous coverage of the presidential elections from six district capitals;
- Election reports were sent by the Pool Coverage Teams to the EMC in Dili on Election Day at 9 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m.;
- Two daily election reports were sent to the EMC on April 10 and one on April 11;
- 33 stories were produced and broadcast on radio stations in Dili (including RTL);
- 3 features stories on the elections were published in newspapers the day after the elections.

At the end of the presidential elections program, ICFJ commissioned Insight Timor-Leste (an independent social research local NGO) to evaluate the effectiveness of the pool coverage (Attachment D).

Parliamentary Elections Pool Coverage

ICFJ's plans to coordinate a second pool coverage for the parliamentary elections were boosted by several requests from the media community to this effect. Building on the positive results of the presidential pool coverage and active participation of journalists, ICFJ immediately set to work to organize a second round of pool coverage in June. The only outlet that did not participate in the parliamentary pool coverage was RTTL. Despite initial interest in joining the pool coverage, RTTL decided to pull out because of its own comprehensive election coverage plans. RTTL had fourteen teams on the trail of fourteen

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political parties during the campaign, leaving no free reporters to join the pool coverage on Election Day.

ICFJ had originally planned to hire an international, short-term consultant to coordinate the pool coverage. However, based on the experience gained during the presidential elections, the decision was made to entrust the SPT Coordinator, Francedes Suni, with the task of coordinating the project with the assistance and support of the Deputy Country Director.

The pool coverage of parliamentary elections was set up in such a way as to enable participating media outlets to combine resources to do the reporting. Reporters from different media worked together to collect information that was then shared by all the participating outlets and used to produce election stories. The buy-in and support by editors and managers was crucial to the success of the project. Along with training and coordination, ICFJ provided logistical support that enabled the media to cover the elections outside Dili – which most media do not have the resources to do on their own.

The coverage produced by the local media had a direct impact on the lives of Timorese, especially those living in the districts. Despite community radio stations' nightly broadcasts, most of the news focuses on what happens in Dili rather than in the districts. Typical news reporting is also based in the capital of a district, where the radio station is located, and most district radio stations rely heavily on Dili-based newspapers for their news. Rarely do these news outlets venture into their own backyards. The election project brought to the fore the need for local news which goes practically uncovered, either because of lack of resources or of reporting skills. This time around, audiences throughout the country not only had access to election news from Dili, but most importantly, they were able to follow the elections through local coverage by local reporters.

The parliamentary elections pool coverage accomplished other goals besides improving election coverage in general: it exposed district journalists to a different media reality in which they can play a key role in informing the public. Even though the pool coverage was conducted mostly on Election Day, journalists attended a series of training sessions (Pool Coverage Training Fact Sheet, Attachment E) to strengthen their professional skills. Pool coverage team leaders also received training on the day after the elections on follow-up election stories, which most of them produced.

Six teams composed of ICFJ Journalism Trainers, reporters and stringers from Dili-based media and from community radio stations reported to a team of editors in Dili from six districts: Dili, Ermera, Los Palos, Viqueque, Bobonaro, and the enclave of Oecusse.

The following media participated in the ICFJ's pool coverage of parliamentary elections:

Dili Community Radio Stations:

- RTK
- Klibur FM

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- Radio Lorico Lian
- Radio Rakambia

District Community Radio Stations:

- Radio Comunidade Povu Viqueque
- Radio Comunidade Atoni Lifa
- Radio Comunidade Los Palos,
- Radio Comunidade Maliana

Newspapers

- Diario Nacional
- Timor Post
- Lifau Post

Independent Production House

- CAMSTL

Pool coverage reporters gathered newsworthy information on five specific categories of news:

1. Security
2. Voter turnout
3. Process of voting, including counting
4. Fraud/intimidation/deliberate manipulation
5. What voters had to say.

Throughout Election Day the six team leaders provided regular reports (Attachment F) to the EMC Pool Coverage Team in Dili. Reports were edited and news bulletins produced and disseminated to all participating media outlets for election coverage.

Achievements of the parliamentary elections pool coverage program include:

- The program was successfully administered by a Timorese rather than an international consultant;
- It provided hands-on journalism training to reporters while producing local election coverage for all communities of participating districts;
- Participating journalists attended two days of election training in Dili focused on the election law and process;
- ICFJ trainers also conducted two days of on-site training in all six district with the district-based pool coverage reporters;
- Specialized training was held for team leaders and editors of news outlets in Dili;
- Dili media provided increased and unprecedented coverage of the elections in the districts;
- Community radio stations in the districts received timely national updates from Dili (which had never been done prior to this election);

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- 49 journalists participated in the specialized training and pool coverage of the elections (12 of them women);
- Of the six team leaders, four were from community radio stations, two others were JTT trainers;
- ICFJ partnered with nine community radio stations (four Dili-based and five district-based);
- ICFJ also partnered with two national papers, *Timor Post* and *Diario Nacional*, and one district newspaper, *Lifau Post*;
- On election day, 26 new stories were broadcast by the nine participating community radio stations (some in the local languages of the region of broadcast);
- On the day after the election, three print stories appeared in the Dili newspapers, two on the front page;
- On the day after the election, four follow-up election stories were produced and broadcast by each community radio station in Los Palos, Viqueque, Oecusse and Ermera.

This is what some of the pool coverage team leaders had to say about the program:

“They were very happy because our radio broadcast good information about events that were taking place on Election Day. Some listeners even SMS-ed me to congratulate us.”

Florindo de Jesus, Team Leader Viqueque District PC Team

“I think this model and ICFJ’s support for journalists, has allowed us to learn how to do a comprehensive coverage [of the Elections].”

Alfredo de Araujo, Team Leader, Los Palos District PC Team

“The members of the Dili team felt they acquired new skills on how to provide coverage on Election Day. They want to thank ICFJ for the support with training conducted before the elections. They feel they have more knowledge now on how to cover an election.”

Carlos de Jesus, Team Leader, Dili District PC Team

“Yes, the community said it was very good, because our community radio station gave them direct information about the elections process in Ermera as well as from other districts.”

Alfons Pereira, Team Leader, Ermera District PC Team

Media Analysis Team (MAT)

A six-member Media Analysis Team (MAT) was formed in the first quarter of 2007. Following one month of training conducted by Zack Alpern, the short-term advisor who designed the Media Analysis Program, the MAT members focused on fine-tuning their analytical skills and familiarizing themselves with the requirements of media analysis (Attachment G).

During this quarter, the MAT has been 1) analyzing and evaluating the quality of news coverage available to Timorese citizens according to international journalism standards;

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and 2) assessing coverage of major news categories (e.g., elections, security, economy, development issues) in four of the main newspapers in Timor-Leste: *Timor Post*, *Diario Nacional*, *Suara Timor Lorosa'e (STL)* and *Tempo Semanal*.

Analysis of Print Media News

Beginning from April 2007, MAT analysts have been reading news stories from the four newspapers (three dailies and one weekly) and answering a list of 27 questions against which eight international standards of journalism are measured. Upon completion of this process, they discuss and revise the results. At the end of the analysis period (currently set at a monthly schedule) a basic news index report (Table 3) is produced and shared with the JTT.

Monthly media analysis reports of the basic news index (Table 3) of the four national newspapers have been generated by the MAT for April, May and June but these have not yet been submitted in the form of feedback to media outlets. Upon review of these reports, SIMPTL has decided that the MAT needs to gain more experience in the use of the baseline system to score news stories and in applying accepted standards of international journalism against scored stories. The team will receive further training in the coming few months, especially in analyzing broadcast media. It will start providing feedback to the media in the 3rd quarter of this year on a limited scale to allow for further growth and development. SIMPTL is fully aware of the importance and delicacy of this process which needs to be constructive and of direct benefit to Timorese media, hence the caution in proceeding with the analysis.

A professional and high-quality analysis, provided directly to the media, or discussed in public forums, will generate a demand for more specialized training from the media and from individual journalists.

The next quarter will see the expansion of analysis to broadcast media, which will begin with radio and follow up with television.

The Basic News Index (BNI)

The BNI is meant to offer a simplified and quick way of assessing a news story's adherence to professional journalistic standards.

The Index Score is based on answers to 10 questions out of a total of 27 that news analysts need to answer.

1. Is the lead attention-grabbing?
2. Does the story cover recent events?
3. Are general statements supported with specific numbers, facts, and information?
4. Does the body of the story support the lead with details and evidence?
5. Is this story relevant to ordinary Timorese readers?

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6. Is this story interesting to Timorese living outside of Dili?
7. Does this story use multiple sources for verification?
8. Does this story represent multiple points of view on its subject?
9. Is this story written/presented in a way that ordinary Timorese will understand?
10. Does this story explains technical terms that are used?

The index totals the scoring achieved based on those 10 questions representing eight international standards of journalism:

1. The Lead
2. Timeliness
3. Detail
4. Structure
5. Interest
6. Accuracy
7. Fairness
8. Clarity

The above questions represent only the very *basic* standards of journalism.

Table 3 – Basic News Index Report for total number of stories analyzed

Basic News Index (BNI)	
NI	Totals
10-20	##
20-30	##
30-40	##

10-20 represents stories that are excellent to very good meeting all standards.
20-30 represents good stories that meet some, but not all standards.
30-40 represents weaker stories that do not meet many or all standards.

Business Development Team (BDT)

SIMPTL believes this is the right time to move forward on its program goal of cultivating business skills in Timor-Leste media, such as advertising sales and marketing. The plan calls for a thorough assessment and project design treatment by an international expert, and subsequently hiring and training a team of up to four Timorese media business trainers.

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ICFJ has already hired one Timorese economics graduate to lead the effort. He will accompany Michelle Foster, the international consultant who will be in Dili in August 2007, throughout the assignment, reaping the advantage of intensive mentorship. Michelle Foster will come to SIMPTL as an ICFJ Knight International Journalism Fellow. Foster will visit all four newspapers, and with the ICFJ local staff member, will assess the earning potential and needs of each. She will design a program that meets those needs and includes curricula and training materials.

Foster will also consult with TVTL and RTL managers and several community radio station managers to assess their interest and potential for independent marketing efforts. The program she will design will encompass the entire spectrum of media in Timor-Leste, featuring individual treatments for separate outlets.

This contribution by a Knight International Journalism Fellow represents a significant contribution to ICFJ's efforts in Timor-Leste, giving the business development project the strength it needs to launch. It also enables ICFJ's local business development coordinator to carry on with project development. It is expected that as a result of these efforts, Timorese media will have the tools to manage more effectively, target market opportunities, sell advertising using professional skills, and find ways to make advertisers more successful financially, with resulting increases in advertising revenues for local media. This, in turn, will create a virtuous cycle, with increased revenues supporting improved news content that are increasingly independent of third-party influence.

Media Law

ICFJ's partner, IREX, supported by SIMPTL and with an operational base within TLMI, has been sub-contracted to implement a pro-active and coherent media law strategy to raise awareness of the implications of a media law among Timorese media, government players and civil society. SIMPTL has continued to support IREX in its program activities. (Please see the IREX Quarterly Report, Attachment H, for a detailed overview of this program.)

During this quarter, ICFJ and IREX hosted two large special Media Law meetings with the leaders of the Timorese media community to ensure they play an active role in the development of a media law for Timor-Leste. Regular meetings were also held between ICFJ and the government Media Law advisor, Sofia Calado, for updates and to offer support as needed. IREX media law advisor Julia Davey also traveled to East Timor in June to implement the program. (See Attachment I – IREX Media Law Consultant Report)

On April 24, 2007, ICFJ/IREX employed Francisco Pinto as coordinator of the media law activities of SIMPTL. The position of Media Law coordinator is a shared ICFJ/IREX position.

7.0 Outlook

With a fully staffed and equipped office and trained teams, SIMPTL is ready and well positioned to achieve the following in the next quarter of the program:

- After consultations with the Steering Committee, either individually or as a group, present a draft charter and bylaws for approval. At quarter's end, the Steering Committee will be institutionalized in a manner that will allow it to functionally guide ICFJ's efforts on behalf of TLMI.
- Commence Phase II of the training of trainers program with the full-time involvement of veteran international trainers, including Knight International Journalism Fellow Maria Gabriela Carrascalao-Heard and Jody McPhillips.
- Enable the media analysis team, with additional training, to deliver solid analysis products to editors and producers in a way that will encourage them to raise their journalistic standards.
- Commence a pilot project in Baucau aimed at creating a model of sustainable stimulation and higher journalism standards in the districts.
- Initiate other special projects targeting the media including the design of an information access network, a style guide for journalists, a Code of Ethics for the media, and planning for Annual Journalism Excellence Awards;
- With the help of an international expert in the field, initiate a media business development program aimed at helping media outlets make more money. Specifically, the consultant will analyze media outlets' earning capacities and needs, and design a program including the training of ICFJ staff to serve them.



Young East Timorese voter showing his voting card to an election pool coverage photographer on Parliamentary Election Day.

Recommendations for Journalism Training of Trainers in Timor Leste

*Lisa Schnellinger, Training of trainers consultant
Knight International Journalism Fellowships
May 31, 2007*

The recommendations in this report are based on:

- ✓ an independent written evaluation of the training program
- ✓ a follow-up discussion with the evaluator, Eduardo Soares
- ✓ a follow-up meeting with the trainers and me (Francez translating)
- ✓ written evaluations of the trainers, done by the training advisers
- ✓ written and verbal reports from visiting training adviser, Virginia
- ✓ comments from editors of Timor media outlets in recent meetings
- ✓ meetings and discussions of the training team
- ✓ my discussions with Tom, Emanuel, and Francez
- ✓ my direct observations and experience during my four months here
- ✓ my experience working with journalists in 17 other countries since 1991

These recommendations have been discussed and approved by all relevant ICFJ staff: Tom, the training advisers, Emanuel, Francez.

What follows is only a summary, meant to assist immediate needs for budget revisions, planning, and the transitional period in June and July. Further details can be discussed during our visit to ICFJ headquarters June 11-12. Dili staff members are also happy to give more information.

Current conditions

As stated in my previous report to ICFJ, the skill levels of Timorese journalists are very low. They also suffer from lack of resources at their media outlets, lack of any previous skill-based training, and low levels of basic education. They have no active sense of the role of an independent media in a democracy other than to recite platitudes about it, and culturally most of them are very reluctant to question anyone – even an ordinary fisherman – about even non-controversial topics. The passivity arising from centuries of colonization and then occupation has left them with few examples of real leadership other than guerilla fighters. They do not have access to international TV, radio or newspapers, and mostly do not seem curious about what journalism is like in the rest of the world; consequently they believe that their problems are unique.

Nonetheless, the 10 that ICFJ selected as trainer candidates would like to be seen as professionals, and are keen to become trainers. Most of them work hard at the assignments. With one exception, they see that the training thus far was useful and necessary, and they also believe that ICFJ does support them and want them to succeed. They have shown improvements in some key areas: thinking about stories in terms of audience interest and needs, expanding the number and types of sources they use, including background information to explain history and context. Some of them recognized the value of digging for facts and data to give substance to their stories, in particular the voter survey. They seem to understand at least the definition of other professional standards such as accuracy and fairness. However, they are quite a ways from mastering the skills needed to implement these standards in producing their stories.

The learning is slow going. They are more comfortable with the passive teaching style of lectures and textbooks, and they had never been exposed to skill-based, localized professional training before taking part in ICFJ's. Consequently, some of them did not understand that the voter survey and the issues stories were assigned to them as a practical application of the new concepts and skills we taught - they thought these were somehow being produced for ICFJ's benefit, not theirs. Applying new information or new skills to a reporting situation requires a level of logical thinking that they have little experience with. After three months of working with them on elections coverage, I feel that the group is just now beginning to comprehend the dimensions of what they do not know and still need to master before they can train others.

In a meeting this week that Francez and I held with the trainer candidates to review the evaluation, I told them that they would need more training to ensure mastery of journalism skills before they go on to become trainers, and I suggested that we might also have them take classes in critical thinking skills offered by a local NGO. Several of them immediately agreed. Paula, a veteran radio reporter who is one of the smartest in the team, said: "We'd love to be part of this... One of the biggest problems we have is the mentality which is providing stories that are not based on data and information but are based on interviews - information that's not based on facts. In this sense, (the training) has brought a big advantage for us as a media institution."

And Carlos, who is an editor at Timor Post and has at times complained that the subjects are too basic, still acknowledged that his experience in the pool coverage organized by ICFJ was valuable in a way that didn't sink in immediately: "I'm grateful, and I've learned some very new things. One of my biggest examples is when we covered the [presidential] election - I went out, came back, did my evaluation, and then at some stage later, realized that hey, I hadn't done this before, and I really learned something, it's very useful."

However enthused and loyal the trainers are, at the same time ICFJ has to address the realities of the media outlets. All are understaffed, and the extended time needed for the training could be seen as burdensome. There is also an expectation, already twice-delayed due to elections, that this group will be certificated as trainers, and they are eager to learn the skills of training. These considerations have to be addressed in order to carry ToT forward.

Recommendations

The ultimate goal of the ToT remains the same as originally outlined in the grant proposal: to have a team of professional Timorese journalism trainers who can conduct training both in-house and for their colleagues at other outlets in mixed sessions. This training would cover both the fundamental skills as well as specialized topics reporting, and would be set up and arranged by the IFCJ training team's staff coordinator.

However, given what we now know in very concrete and specific terms, the approach, timeline and staffing for this needs to be changed substantially.

In order to engage and maintain the current group of trainers as a team, as well as ensure commitment from their organizations to support this major time investment, we suggest that the Journalism Training of Trainers program be revised in the following ways. The first four recommendations pertain to structure, and the second four to staffing.

1. The training should span at least eight months, beginning no sooner than August. It would be in two-month segments, each focusing on a specialty topic.

This schedule and its content should be carefully planned so that media outlet editors endorse and support the program. It is also important to invest the time so that lessons can be prepared thoroughly, appropriate materials can be written and translated, and journalism trainers with the necessary skills and experience can be recruited and oriented. Anything less will produce mediocre results that will not advance Timorese journalism.

2. Mastery of essential journalism skills should be rigorously trained and enforced, via reporting projects on special topics. The topics should be 1) security/crime; 2) rule-of-law/justice system; 3) inflation / commodity market economics; and 4) health care or education. These would span two months each.

These issues are among the very top concerns of Timorese adults, according to our survey of 625 voters nationwide. Yet they are little covered - the focus is instead on politics and press releases. Security problems are not generally covered by state-owned broadcast media and are covered only as crime stories in print media. The legal process of investigating crimes, arrest, trial and imprisonment is not covered, which contributes to the generalized fear and sense of lawlessness. People hear many rumors about crimes, but they have very little hard information to counter it. They also know little about the rule of law – what it means, whether it is put into practice, what their rights are, what progress is being made. By focusing the attention of the media on this area, and training them to provide accurate, fact-based information, ICFJ trainers can make a significant contribution to the stability and progress of civil society.

3. The training-of-trainers lessons on methodology should be intermixed periodically with the journalism skills lessons. The trainers would put the training skills to immediate use to conduct coaching and single-segment training sessions, both in-house and for district community radio.

Although ICFJ's project plan originally envisioned an intensive, formal ToT to commence the training team, our on-the-ground assessment of journalists' skills in Timor as well as other factors led us to delay this formal training. After three months of working with them, the training advisers feel that they are still months away from mastering the basics of journalism. The trainers themselves indicated in our meeting this week that they realize they need to work more on mastery of journalism skills before receiving the instruction in training as trainers. However, at the same time they –and their supervisors - need some motivation to invest this additional time in journalism skill mastery.

If the trainers conduct in-house training and some training of community radio, in the districts, approximately once a month, they will get a first-hand taste of the demands of training, as well as being able to practice training and coaching skills a little bit at a time. They will be more motivated to work on the journalism skills if they know that they will have to immediately teach them to their colleagues. We have already seen this to be the case with four of the trainers who we've given the opportunity to, in the previous pool coverage and in two district-level trainings.

At the same time, the supervisors/editors of the trainers will be rewarded for their patient investment of staff time by gaining regular in-house training – as well as increased output of relevant stories.

A formal ToT session could be held at the conclusion of this eight-month phase, to reinforce and test what has been learned and practiced. This would be the culmination that would lead to certification as a trainer. Any certificates given prior to that would be premature (although written acknowledgement of specific skill mastery is OK). The certification is an incentive, and it also needs to be something highly prized and valuable, just as a university diploma is. Enforcing the requirement of mastery of standards will enhance the value and reputation of ICFJ training.

4. Specific lessons in the most basic technical skills as well as general professional skills such as critical thinking and organization should be conducted early on in the next phase and reinforced throughout.

Without these basics, the trainers will not be fully utilize their journalism skills and will not be able to plan and conduct practical lessons for their colleagues. This includes, for radio, the use of recording equipment and Cool Edit, and for print, development of simple informational graphics, layout and photography. These skills are also useful in developing practical training materials that engage different learning styles.

5. All the trainers should remain half-time, not full-time as in the original work plan. The only full-time position would be the team's coordinator.

This is due to the time constraints of working professionals and the political difficulties caused by having any trainers employed full-time by ICFJ. It also causes internal problems on the team when there are perceived inequities, and it is difficult to manage them when the

trainers are on different schedules. All the trainers should continue to work at their respective media outlets and should be under part-time hours with ICFJ that are clearly scheduled and enforced under agreements with the media outlets.

6. The number of trainers should be reduced. This is in line with the original idea of a 6-person training team; attrition is normal and expected.

All agree that Pedro, a community radio reporter, Nelio, the news director for TVTL, and Casimiro, a cameraman and technician for TVTL, are not a good fit for this program, and they have expressed this as well. Pedro simply cannot keep up. Nelio, the only one who has a university education and experience working for international media, feels that the training is beneath him, and his work obligations also make it very difficult for him to attend training sessions. Casimiro questions why he needs to learn journalism skills in order to train his colleagues on editing software.

After elections, we would like to add Almerio, who is a freelance journalist and trainer with background in both print and radio.

This would reduce the total number of trainers to 8. It would do no harm to the program if this were further reduced to 6, because these trainers as well as their news outlets must renew and demonstrate commitment as well as ability before they continue to the next stage. It may be, for example, that RTL will not want to continue to release two editors (Paula and Luis) for half of every day; in this case we would choose Paula.

7. Staffing of the training team should include short-term advisers who are very experienced in both journalism - especially in the special topics to be covered - and training.

The training team should renew the contract of at least one of the current training advisers, at least for the first four months August-November, in order to have some consistency and continuity. With a reduced number of trainers, it is feasible for one person to manage this.

In addition, ICFJ should bring in veteran journalists who have experience in the special topics as well as an understanding of training techniques. Any short-term advisers should agree to adhere to and demonstrate the principles and practices of training as described by ICFJ, so as to support and reinforce the training skills lessons.

8. Regular informational sessions should be held with the supervisors of the trainers, in order to ensure their continued support.

In the first week or two of July, the supervisors of the trainers from their media outlets should be invited to a meeting at ICFJ. In this meeting, the basic elements of the new plan would be outlined. The supervisors would be asked to complete a brief form indicating the needs on their staff for skills training. This form must be carefully worded so that the supervisors will endorse the skills that trainers will be learning (and not claim "Oh, my staffs already know this").

In a follow-up meeting (a week or two later), the full details of the plan would be explained, and a new memorandum of understanding for organizations and terms of reference for individuals would be presented. MoUs should be given to all organizations, not just RTTL. These agreements should be fully transparent and the details known to all parties, to avoid allegations of inequitable treatment and miscommunication.

Their supervisors and the trainers should be given a week after the informational meeting to re-confirm the participation of these trainers and sign the MoUs and individual contracts.

Subsequently, ICFJ should hold meetings once a month with the supervisors in which the training curriculum is discussed and any problems are addressed. In these meetings, ICFJ can also ensure that the supervisors support and publish the stories generated by the trainers and their in-house training participants.

Conclusion

The chart on the following pages is based on our discussions here about the essential skills in journalism, training, coaching, technical skills and general professional skills of which journalism trainers need to demonstrate mastery. It also gives our best estimate of the number of half-day lessons needed to ensure this mastery, based on our direct experience in these three months.

The total is 30 full weeks of half-day lessons. (The half-day lessons would include the practical applications and assignments which in Phase 1 have sometimes spilled over into the rest of the day.) With the month-long Christmas break and other holidays, this amounts to about nine months on the calendar - not including preparation time before this phase begins. I believe that even this estimate may be somewhat optimistic, given the working conditions, environment for journalists, low level of skills and understanding of concepts, and other limitations.

I also recognize that there are two elements that could be potential obstacles: One is being able to find appropriate training advisers for two-month terms. The other is to take the time for the degree of organization and planning necessary to execute these recommendations. But if these two areas are prioritized, I am confident that ICFJ can find the way to carry them out.

Fortunately, the local USAID mission fully understands what ICFJ is facing and what is needed here, and very much supports a go-slow approach. I hope that ICFJ will take advantage of this unusual circumstance to build a model program that truly addresses the needs in Timor Leste.

Skills for journalism trainers				
<i>Mastery of these essential skills must be demonstrated before certification as an ICFJ journalism trainer</i>				
Type	Skill	Description	Standards	Number of half-day lessons
Journ	Story ideas	Generate, develop and focus interesting, timely, relevant ideas for news and features stories appropriate to the audience	Interest, Timeliness	5
Journ	Sources - Personal	Identify, assess and develop a wide range of personal sources	Fairness, Accuracy	5
Journ	Sources - Written	Identify, assess and cull from written documents and Internet sources	Fairness, Accuracy	5
Journ	Questions -General	Break down story idea into general and specific questions to be addressed	Interest, Fairness, Accuracy, Details, Background	5
Journ	Interviews - Preparation	Prepare for interviews with official, technical, expert, sensitive or personal sources	Interest, Fairness, Accuracy, Details, Background	5
Journ	Interviews - Conducting	Conduct interviews with official, technical, expert, sensitive or personal sources	Interest, Fairness, Accuracy, Details, Quotes	10
Journ	Notes	Take clear, accurate notes that capture the important points and useable quotes, and increase efficiency of using tape recorder	Accuracy, Details, Quotes	5
Journ	Quotes	Choose and edit appropriate and interesting direct quotes, paraphrase indirect quotes	Accuracy, Details, Quotes	5
Journ	Structure	Organize and outline news and feature stories in a clear and logical manner, including relevance and implications and impact	Structure, Fairness	10
Journ	Lead	Write a clear, interesting and concise lead that accurately conveys what it is in the story	Interest, Clarity, Structure	5
Journ	Background	Research and summarize the historical background and current context of a news event	Background, Fairness, Structure	5
Journ	Details	Include factual and descriptive details to support the main points of the story and make it vivid to the audience	Accuracy, Details, Interest	5
Journ	Clarity - Sentences	Write short, simple, direct sentences	Clarity, Accuracy	5
Journ	Clarity - Words	Use words understood by your audience; eliminate jargon and Portuguese	Clarity, Accuracy, Interest	5

Tech	Cool Edit	Radio: Use Cool Edit to edit stories	10
	Recording	Radio: Use mini-disks and microphones to record quality sound and interviews	5
	Graphics	Print/TV: Use Excel to create simple informational graphics from data	5
	Photography	Print: Compose interesting photos that tell a story	5
	Layout	Print: Design pages that have focus and guide the reader's attention	5
General	Planning	Organize and prepare for work tasks	5
	Critical thinking	Break down tasks and problems into logical steps; examine sequence of events for patterns	10
	Analysis	Examine data for relevance and meaning	5
Training	Needs assessment	Assess the needs of journalists for training	2
	Participant selection	Recruit and select the appropriate mix of participants for workshop	1
	Plan workshop	Organize and plan the sequence of segments for a skills-based workshop or in-house session	2
	Learning objectives	Write a learning objective that is clear and focused for each segment	1
	Learning styles	Develop materials to engage journalists by understanding their learning styles and how adults learn	1
	Explanation	Explain the steps in using a skill and the reasons for doing so	1
	Demonstration	Demonstrate the steps in using a skill	1
	Application	Plan and execute a practical assignment for journalists to try out the skill	1
	Evaluation	Assess how well participants acquire a skill and measure their progress	2
	Presentation	Present lessons in a clear and engaging manner through use of voice, body language and movement	2
	Learning Environment	Control dynamics of the learning environment, and conduct group work	1
	Discipline	Counsel individuals on behavior and how to contribute to group learning	1
Coaching	Approach	Understand the differences between coaching and editing; use questioning to help journalists learn	2
	Obstacles	Handle individual obstacles to learning (low esteem, arrogance, low literacy)	1

	Research	Find and develop in-depth materials on specialized topics (health, environment, law, etc)		1
		TOTAL HALF-DAYS		150
		WEEKS		30

ICFJ internal document

ATTACHMENT B

Re: Pool Coverage
From: Lisa Schnellinger
April 24, 2007

Highlights

*About 50 journalists who participated in the Thursday and Saturday trainings got a lively and practical overview of the elections process and related laws, the role of journalists in an election, the 10 standards of international professional coverage, and six specific issues to watch for in Election Day pool coverage.

*The journalists who participated in the pool coverage gained the novel “live” experience of covering a presidential election and working in teams at the district and national level.

*Three of the trainers-in-training also had a chance to attempt training themselves. While they were most successful in describing the role of journalists and the 10 standards, they said that the experience made them realize quite a lot about what a trainer should do, and keen to try again.

*On Election Day, ICFJ produced bulletins and distributed to Timorese media at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. This information was used by several community radio stations and Diaro newspaper verbatim. RTL said the information was useful and incorporated it into their coverage.

*On both Election Day and the day after, ICFJ tabulated results as they came in from pool coverage participants in the field, and compared these to CNE results, then released any information that supplemented the CNE numbers so as to give a fuller picture. ICFJ also fed information on results to Australian media which was used as background in their stories.

ATTACHMENT C

12 noon report – ICFJ

Suguransa

Iha fatin votasaun iha suku Labarai, Suai Maukatar votantes nain ida kanek tanba hetan tuda husi grupu deskoñesidu balun. Vitima ho idade 18 oras ne'e lori tiha ona ba hospital Suai nian. Wainhira grupu deskoñesidu ne'e tuda votantes sira, votantes sira sente tauk no pániku iha minutu balun. PNTL to'o oras ne'e sei duni no sei halao hela investigasaun ba grupu ne'ebe maka halao asaun tuda votantes hirak ne'e.

Votantes Hira

Ihar oras 11.30am. Mais menus votantes 600 resin mak labele ba vota tanba, menus de kartaun votu. Akontese iha Suku Kairui no Fatuborala, Sub-distritu Laleia, Distrito Manatuto. Alende ne'e, iha Suku Samalai, kartaun votu nia barak liu fali votantes. Problema tekniku ne'e, sei iha prosesu kordesaun hodi rezolve lalais kartaun votus nebe menus.

Aleinde ne'e, iha Suku Aiteas, Manatuto vila, falta deit votantes nain 10 mak sei kontinua formatura hodi ba vota.

Actividadadi votasaun

Sentru votasaun eskola Sekundaria Colégio Poetete, Ermera iha problema oituan tanba iha ema nain rua votantes maka depois ba halo kuak tiha sira nia buletin de votu, sira mai rai fali iha meja leten. Tanba lahatene informasaun sira atu ba tau iha ne'ebe. Maibe depois de akontesementu ne'e, polling staff sira fo hatene informasaun klaru katak halo kuak hotu buletin de votu, ba tau iha kaixa, laos mai tau fali iha meja leten.

Logistica no clima

Iha Suco Minimau, sub distrito Cailaco, Bobonaro, cartaun votus nebe STAE prepara, hamutuk 250. no to'o tuku 9 dader, kartaun votus hirak ne'e uja hotu ona. Entretanto Votantes nebe seidauk vota, sei iha kuaje 300 resin ba leten.

Brigada husi Sentru Votasaun Suco Minimau, Rozano Armindo Lulu hateten, tuir dadus resensiamentu husi Chefe Suco Minimau, votantes hamutuk 800 mak iha ona kartaun eleitoral iha suco neba.

Neduni Brigada sentru Votasaun, Razano Armindo Lulu hateten, nia hato'o ona problema ne'e ba distrito Bobonaro, no agora dadauk, UNPOL hamutuk kareta tolu mak fila ona ba Maliana Vila, hodi foti tan kartaun votu hamutuk 800 atu completa ba 1000.

Nudar informasaun, husi suco Minimau to Maliana Vila, kuaje kilometrus 30, no sei han tempu oras rua tamba estrada ladiak.

To'o tuku 11:00, UNPOL nebe mak ba foti bulletin de votus, fila fali ho bulletin hamutuk 250, no agora dadauk, actividade votasaun iha Suco Minimau kontinua.

Subdistrito Maukatar, Distrito Suai: Iha udan piska-piska, maibe votantes sira hamrik nafatin halo liña hodi halo votasaun.

Manipulasaun

Husi Suco Ritabou, distrito Bobonaro, tuir informasaun nebe equipa kobertura hetan katak, observadores husi partido no kandidato sira, konsege obriga votantes aleijadu Matan At ida ho naran Carlos Moniz tinan 50, atu hatete sai, kandidato nebe mak nia atu hili, maibe la konsege tamba polisia intervene lalais.

Antonio Abi nudar votantes hatete, "Senti haksolok tanba votasaun agora diferencia ho eleisaun xefi suku. Agora ami bele vota libre iha fatin barak."

Votantes Lian

Teresa dos Santos (56), husi suku Poetete, Subdistrito Ermera, Distrito Ermera ba Jornalista hateten katak : "maske hau nia ain sorin karuk aleijadu tiha, maibe hau hato'o ona hau nia direitu no dever ba ema ne'ebe maka hau fiar. Hau lahatene se maka atu sai Presidente, maibe hau hato'o ona hau nia konfiasana ba ema ne'ebe maka atu ukun rai ida ne'e.

Subdistrito Tilomar, distrito Suai votantes nia lian, Orlando Cardoso (35) esplika ba jornalista iha kampu de traballu katak sese deit maka sai Presidente iha eleisaun ne'e, tenki lori mudansa foun iha nasaun ida ne'e.

Iha sentru Votasaun GOR Maliana Vila, distritu Bobonaro, votantes nain rua, Ermelinda Vicente Pereira no Arminda da Costa tinan 50, protesta tamba brigada lakohi fo tempu ba sira atu tuir vota, ho rajaun tamba votantes nain ruan ne'e lori deit cartaun eleitoral foto copia.

Wainhira confirma ba STAE distrito, Diretor STAE Distrito Bobonaro, Mariano Viegas hateten, STAE sei simu deit ema nebe lori kartaun eleitoral original atu tuir votu.

Votantes sira konsidera Jose Ramos Horta no Lu-Olo iha jogu tradicional, anexan futu manu, taru osan, karau. 11.00am. Hafoin votasaun, populasaun sira halao jogu

tradisional, besik fatin votasaun. Jogu ne'e, akontese iha Suku Cunha, SD Noapai, Sub-distritu Pasabe, Oecussi . Sasan ne'ebe sira taru mak, Karau no osan.

ATTACHMENT D

REPORT

An evaluation of the factors currently impacting the understanding, quality, value and sustainability of
ICFJ's Pool Coverage Program

Submit to ICFJ East Timor Office
Dili, April 26, 2007

By
East Timor INSIGHT

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of
International Center for Journalist - ICFJ

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The state of the Pool Coverage Program: Issues covered

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Section One briefly gives an overview of the program which includes basic principles (professional development, useful impact, quality of the material) and management (the timing, future continuation, suggestions for improvement – effective & efficiency approaches).

Section TWO

Section Two summarizes the conclusions of this evaluation, and makes proposals which are meant to be of immediate implementation during this program's development.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

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I. INTRODUCTION

Background

This research aims to:

1. Complete a quick external evaluation of the program.
2. Make recommendations on how ICFJ can best assist the media of Timor Leste to develop the most comprehensive coverage of the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The findings are intended to help ICFJ better define its role and support in addressing the needs of the program whether it be technical or professional support. These efforts would additionally help both media outlets and journalists to better understand their crucial (especially during elections) roles in providing information to East Timor's citizens.

Methodology

We began this assessment by interviewing the Team leaders of pool coverage which included editors of media outlets, the team leaders and the journalist involved. With that information in hand, we then assessed each individuals understanding about the objectives of the pool coverage, the value both individual and the media outlets as an organization. We also sought their advice for improving this program and their concerns for the program's coordination, support and timing.

Given the time constraints of this evaluation project (see TOR provided), it was not viable to gather primary data from the sources through a face-to-face interview. Instead, feedback was collected via telephone interview.

Target Respondents

Stakeholders and Clients of Evaluation

Our evaluation represented feedback from the following groups of individuals:

1. Team Leaders of Pool Coverage (from 6 different areas)
2. Editors of Media outlets (10 editors)
3. Journalists participants (6 journalists)

Criteria of the respondents

The above mention respondents that were set out by ICFJ Election Coordinator are those who involved in the pool coverage activity and not to be represented.

Some difficulties encountered during the evaluation

Discussion of an enabling environment should be a face-to-face interview. People living in the Timorese society are also more accustomed to face-to-face communication. This allows for greater trust and confidence between the interviewer and interviewee. The interviewer would feel more comfortable expressing their thoughts in a face-to-face interview. The fact that these evaluations were done over the phone mean that they may not be the most accurate or detailed of interviews.

Using this report

This is *not* a thorough evaluation of the project, but rather a rough overview of the concerns currently facing the journalists and media outlets in relation to the Pool Coverage activities. The point of the evaluation is not to provide final answers and solutions to the program's challenges,

but instead this evaluation identifies what these challenges are, and sets them out in a coherent fashion. With this in mind, I have organized the document into two action-oriented sections, targeted for different users, ICFJ and the Media (journalists and the media outlets/editors).

Section One briefly explains the understanding of the program, the values and terms of coordination as a whole. Section Two summarizes the conclusions of this evaluation, and makes recommendation which are meant to be of immediate implementation during this program's further development

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the first time since East Timor gained its independence in 2002, elections are being held, marking historical democratic progress in the country. Media, online, print and broadcast, play a significant role in providing election related information to the nation. TVTL and RTL had contributed in a very significant way of making people aware of this ongoing process. Great strides have been made in rebuilding and creating an independent East Timorese media in the last six and half years. On top of this, the support by International Centre for Journalist – ICFJ, in making media more actively involved in the election process is counted. ICFJ has trained and provided assistance to Timorese media outlets in order to carry out the broadest possible coverage of the run-off presidential election and the coming parliamentary elections. Journalists have expressed that they highly value the support and are hoping for more trainings and coordination for the coming election.

Dramatic deficiencies in the media sector will require a greater amount of coordination of ICFJ's relationship with the media and also within the media organizations themselves.

The key issues found in the course of this evaluation were:

- Journalists still need greater financial and logistical help in order to cover their stories.
- At the time of this evaluation respondents were unclear about the objective and the role of the media outlets editorial staff and how this affects the journalism report. They are confused about who should do the editorial work of the stories. It is tempting to make this something that ICFJ would cover but ICFJ is not a media agency, this needs to be made clear to editors.
- Many journalists are lacking basic journalism skills. Many respondents thought it would be best to recruit participants based on skill and experience. It is understood that most media do not have skilled journalists and that many Timorese journalists have been learning the professional on the job and "experimenting".
- Training of journalists specifically targeting this program will remain a long-term need as the profession remains a fledgling one. There is a great need to train journalists on technical expertise.
- There is need for improved coordination within the Pool Coverage Program. There is a risk that this program may be built too quickly and lack the necessary understanding of roles and technical capability both ICFJ and Media professionals should share.

III. The STATE OF THE POOL COVERAGE

Section ONE

The value and the Program Understanding

Every respondent believed in the values of this program. Providing journalists with the knowledge necessary to cover these issues as well as increasing the public's trust of the media and understanding the role of media in building and maintaining democratic nations. This program was critical to reach people in remote areas and share knowledge throughout the country.

The greatest misunderstanding was that many of the journalists thought that they were covering the elections for ICFJ and not for their own media. Most thought that they had been hired by ICFJ. When we spoke to ICFJ staff, they clarified that they had made it completely clear that that this was not the fact and that the journalists were reporting for their own media organizations.

One respondent commented, "This program was rushing towards the implementation. It is a great value of it, but will need time to coordinate and share a common understanding between all elements involved. By this, we would be able to avoid this misinterpretation".

The Quality and Uses of the Report

The quality of the reporting highlighted our concern for the capacity of a small number of journalists who had not been working in journalism for a very long time. They had barely any journalism knowledge or experience. This greatly affected the quality of coverage. We recommend long term trainings particularly on how to cover elections. "We often use the reports, two to four times per day in our news report, nevertheless we are still concerned about the quality of the reports". These sentiments were widely shared among the team leaders and some of the editors.

The Concerns for Negative Impact

Instead of negative impact, we named the challenges posed to this program. This program suffered many technical challenges, for example, little or no electricity, limited telecommunication coverage, lacking security; and intimidation (during the election period – in Ermera). Lacking security and voter intimidation is linked to national security. East Timorese people lacked understanding about the roles and responsibility of the journalists in a democratic nation. This has hindered their willingness to be interviewed by journalists. The voters are worried to speak out about the challenges they face during the elections, both before they vote and as their votes are being counted. Other logistical challenges were that ICFJ did not do enough to provide phone cards for communication.

The Coordination, future continuation, suggestions for improvement

The issue of coordination was strongly emphasized by all respondents. According to respondents, the program seemed rushed. This indicates that the preparation was insufficient. Follow-up is therefore needed. It is urged to have more time for training on election content as well as coordination at all levels involved.

Section TWO

Section Two summarizes the conclusions of this evaluation, and makes proposals which are meant to be of immediate implementation during this program's development.

IV. CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATION

Among the recommendations in this regard are the following:

- Journalists and the Editors need to understand the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in this program. This will prevent misinterpretation. This will clear up editorial responsibility in regards to the report content. ICFJ is not a news agency that is collecting information for media publication.
- Proper coordination was 'missing' at that stage. Journalists and editors gave their reasons for this. Hence proper coordination is absolutely required among ICFJ, journalists, media editors and probably STAE and CNE regarding journalists' accesses.
- That the *agreement is clear* for everyone involved regarding rights and responsibility, which tailed into the process of supporting and collaborating each other for the benefit of public as the whole target audience. That nobody is doing the work for anybody, if not for their target audience and the organization they served.
- *Additional training on reporting and writing* is needed, especially reporting related to *election issues*. All the journalists concerning the preparation, few were questioning about other journalists' professional capacity in doing this kind of work. Commitment and diligence will not help the professionalism and reporting quality.

Additional localized recommendations:

- We recommend greater support through the broader use of phone cards and communications. Oecussi noted that the best and fastest way to communicate a report is through a phone call.
- Some regions of East Timor do not have the infrastructure for telecommunications. This requires some alternative options.
- Transparency on job descriptions and wages are needed. These issues need to be addressed in an open manner. For this reason, an open evaluation in each group of the Team is required. These findings can be used as a barometer for a national evaluation on pool coverage activity.

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: Terms of Reference

Terms of reference

Evaluation of pool coverage International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)

A. Goal:

1. Complete a quick external evaluation of the program.
2. Make recommendations on how ICFJ can best assist the media of Timor Leste to develop the most comprehensive coverage of the presidential and parliamentary elections.

B. Methodology:

1. Individual interviews with Team Leaders of pool coverage
 - o Pedro de Oliveira, Team Leader Bobonaro
 - o Jose Henrique, Assistant Team Leader Bobonaro
 - o Afonso Pereira, Team Leader Manatuto
 - o Peger, Team Leader Oecussi
 - o Alfredo de Araujo, Team Leader Baucau
 - o Carlos de Jesus, Team Leader Ermera
 - o Zeferino Bobo, Team Leader Covalima.

Please find a suggested interview format attached. All team leaders must be interviewed, either individually or in a group.

2. Individual interviews with Editors of media outlets.
At least 10 editors should be interviewed, by phone or in person. The list is attached. Suggested questions attached.
3. Individual interviews with participating journalists
At least 1 journalist from each district team should be interviewed. The following names are suggested:
 - o Bobonaro (TBA)
 - o Manatuto (TBA)
 - o Oecussi (TBA)
 - o Baucau (TBA)
 - o Ermera (TBA)
 - o Covalima (TBA)

C. Deadline

A short written report (no more than 3 pages) is due by Thursday 19 April at 5pm. A verbal presentation should also be available.

D. Contact person

Vanessa Johanson
Elections Coordinator
ICFJ
Vanessajohanson@hotmail.com
+670-7340501

Appendix B: List of Respondents

Lista Ekipa Pool Coverage

BOBONARO	Base	Accredited?	Contact info	COVALIMA	Base
Leader: Pedro de Oliveira	Dili	Iha ona	725 6050	Leader: Eurico (Rakambia)	Dili
Print:	Dili			Print: Julio Soares (Timor Post)	Dili
RTL: Jonas Caiero Alves, Felijarda	Dili	Iha ona	725 8305 (jonas) 7263709	RTL: Carlito Soares, Zeferino Bobo	Dili
Community radio: Jose Henriques, Joanina, Filomena	Menginap keluarga	Seidauk iha	733 5267 (aze) 728 2342 (joanina) 728 0830 (mena)	Community radio: Rakambia team	Dili
TVTL: Ricardina Amaral, Mario Fatima	Maliana	Iha ona	Note, tidak dapat dihubungi	TVTL: Candido Alves, Rui Bonifacio	Dili
MANATUTO				OECUSSI	
Leader: Carlos de Jesus	Dili	Iha ona	7243454	Leader: Peger	Oecusse
Print: Faustino Ximenes (Tempo Semanal)	Dili	Iha ona	727 7079	Print: Domingas Hanjam, Sebastiao Taceo (Lifau), Venancio Obe (Timor Post)	Oecusse
RTL: Antonio Febo, Paulino Ximenes	Dili	Iha ona	7257103 (Antonio) 7250764 (Paulino)	RTL : Nuno Saldanha, Paulino	oequsse Dili
CR: Afonso da Silva (Rakambia)	Dili		7322795	CR: Jose Francisco Efi, Mario, Markus Lafu	Dili
TVTL : Antonio Romano, Francisco Coreia	Manatuto	Iha ona	Note: tidak dapat dihubungi	TVTL : Crisiono Vitorino, Domingos Alves	
BAUCAU				ERMERA	
Leader : Alfredo de Araujo	Menginap keluarga	Iha ona	723 9901	Leader : Afonco Pereira	Gleno, menginap keluarga
RTL: Mario Pedro, Jose da Costa	Menginap keluarga	Iha ona	724 0890 (Mario) 726 2910 (Jose)	RTL: Michaela do Santos dos Santos, Zeca Exposto	Gleno/Ermera Menginap keluarga
Print : Caetano Guterres (TP)	Dili	Iha ona	7253026	Print: Julio da Costa Beremali (Diario Nasional)	Dili
CR: Florindo, Anisto da Costa	Baukau Tidak hadir	Seidauk Seidauk	725 5281 (Florindo) 729 0310 734 0199 (Anito)	CR: pedrro da concesao	Gleno – Ermera Menginap keluarga
TVTL: Luis Pinto, Rodolfo Sousa	Baukau	Iha ona	Note tidak dapat dihubungi	TVTL: Fátima Maia, Argentina Cardoso	Gleno/Ermera
Ekstra: Samsul Bahri Caetano da Costa	Dili	Iha ona Iha ona	727 0114 (Caetano)		

**POOL COVERAGE EVALUATION
EDITORS AND PRODUCERS & MEDIA OUTLETS**

TO BE INTERVIEWED			
No.	Media	Name of person/s	Telephone number
NEWSPAPER			
1	Timor Post	Hugo da Costa	7234222
2	Diario Nasional	Danu	7270114
3	Tempo Semenal	Jose Belo	7234852
RADIO			
5	Radio Rakambia	Eurico Pereira	7243674
6	RTL	David Hugo	7258303
7	RTK	Pastor Dominggus Siquera	3312701
8	Radio Falintil		
9	Radio Klibur		
10	Radio Lorico Lian	Nono	7239945
11	CBC	Albina	7272349
COMMUNITY RADIO DISTRICTS			
12	Radio Comunidade Baucau	Samsul Bahri	7270114
12	Radio Bobonaro	Julio Cardoso (through Jose / Aze)	733 5267 (Aze)
13	Radio Manatuto	Carlos	7243454
14	Radio Ermera	Pedro	7332423
15	Radio Covalima	Bobo	7316670
16	Radio Comunidade Oecussi	Peger	727 9859

Appendix C: Question guide

Evaluation form for team leaders

Each team leader is requested to ask the following information from each member of their teams:

1. Name:
 2. Media:
 3. Phone number:
- (If you do not wish to identify yourself, it is not compulsory to complete questions 1 - 3)
4. Pool coverage location:
 5. Date:
 6. What was the most useful aspect of pool coverage for your professional development?
 7. What was the most useful aspect of pool coverage for your media outlet?
 8. What was the most frustrating / negative aspect of pool coverage for you personally as a journalist?
 9. What was the most frustrating / negative aspect of pool coverage for your media outlet?
 10. Overall, how would you rate the pool coverage process (circle answer)?
- 1 = useless
2 = a little bit useful
3 = useful
4 = very useful
5 = extremely useful

11. ICFJ may do pool coverage again for a runoff election and for the parliamentary elections. Would you recommend ICFJ does pool coverage again? Why / why not?
12. What would you recommend ICFJ changes for next time if we do pool coverage again?
13. Any other comments or feedback?

Evaluation form for editors

1. In your understanding, **why** did ICFJ does pool coverage work with media outlets and journalists?

2. Did you **receive materials** from the pool coverage on 9 April, 10 April and 11 April 2007?
3. Did you receive them in a **timely** manner?
4. Did you use them? How **many times**?
5. What is your opinion of the **quality** of the materials?
6. In what **way** did you use them?
7. Do you think the pool coverage was **valuable**?
8. Would you recommend that ICFJ does pool coverage again in the **next elections**? Why / why not?
9. If ICFJ does it again, how would you **improve** pool coverage for next time?
10. Besides pool coverage, what is the best way ICFJ can support Timorese media to cover the elections?

LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS 2007 POOL COVERAGE FACT SHEET 2

ATTACHMENT E

POOL COVERAGE TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS

	Participants	Topics	Location	Scheduling	Trainers	Objectives
A.1, A.2, A.3	Team leaders and Dili editors	Story topics, questions, sources, bulletins	Dili	Three lessons, June 1, 2 and 4	Training advisers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand role in pool coverage 2. Know the five topics and what they include 3. Formulate questions to be asked 4. Identify sources of info needed 5. Write clear bulletin items
B.1, B.2	Pool Coverage Team (including Team Leaders, Editors and reporters)	Role of parliament, process of elections	Dili	June 8-9	Guest experts, trainers and training advisers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand role of parliament in governance 2. Understand how and why configuration of parliament is changing 3. Understand how process of elections will work (incl. differences from presidential) 4. Know the rules regulating polling stations 5. Use election regulations to formulate questions (acting as a monitor)
C.1, C.2, C.3	Pool Coverage reporters	Types of stories, questions, sources	In the districts, including Dili	June 11-27	Training advisers, team leaders and trainers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand role in pool coverage 2. Know the five topics and what they include 3. Formulate questions to be asked 4. Identify sources of info needed
D.1	Editors of participating outlets	What to do with pool coverage news briefs	In-house	June 18 – 28, One coaching session per editor, and follow-up if needed	Training advisers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know what contact and direction they can request from teams 2. Understand flow of news bulletins in pool coverage 3. Understand format and use of news bulletins
E.1, E.2, E.3	Team leaders	Logistics (equipment, security, procedural)	Dili	June 25-26, June 29	Antonio, Fernando, Jesse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of sat phones, laptops, minidisks, steps to deal with security problems, payment of per diems)

ATTACHMENT F

Pool Coverage Report – June 30, 2007

The late arrival of voting equipment which came via a UN helicopter in Afaloikai, Loiulu and Bahatata villages as well as the Uatocarbau subdistrict, delayed the commencement of voting 2 hours. Mr. Humberto Fernandes, the elections coordinator of the STAE Viqueque subdistrict told local journalist Florindo Ximenes that the voting equipment which included ballot papers boxes and were flown to the polling center due to heavy flooding which made it impossible to travel on the roads. According to regulation, the voting was set to begin by 7 am, “The car could not transport the voting equipment on this Friday, 28 June because of natural disaster such as heavy rain and flooding.”

At another polling center which was based in the Cabiliaun primary school, voting began at 7:16 am because of the late arrival of five of the polling staff who had to retrieve their identification cards. A local journalist had observed that many of the staff at this polling center did not have their identification cards.

When local journalist, Oscar Salsinha, asked the polling station coordinator, Mr. Jose Pinto about this violation of regulation standards, which are outlined in article 10 subsection 4 of Mr. Pinto responded by saying that it would be fine for the polling station staff to continue working at the station.

According to local journalists, the polling centers in the Ermera district, Talimoro village were ready and open for voting by the regulation starting time.

Protests erupted at the EPP No 2 polling center in Luro because polling staff did not follow article 31 subsection 3 which outlines that disabled, elderly, pregnant or ill voters should be given priority and be able to vote first. This was not clearly explained to the voters but once the voters complained the polling staff vaguely explained the regulation.

Besides this incident, Thomas Cabral, a staffer at the polling center told Community Radio Lospalos in an interview that everything ran smoothly for the rest of the day.

The polling center in the Poete village in the Ermera district counted over one hundred voters. Some of these voters lived far from the polling center, 4 km away for many, Those voters had to arrive at the polling center by 4am in order to get a good spot in line.

According to local journalist, Pedro Gonclaves, by 7am there were 45 people lined up outside the polling center in Fatukeru and by 8am the line had grown to 700 people. According to local journalist, Ojorio Verdial, two armed members of the national police entered the polling station in the Metinaro subdistrict. Both policemen declined to be interviewed by journalists.

For voters in Manleuana, in the Metinaro subdistrict voting meant a 7 km walk to the polling center. Some voters were able to take a F-FDTL vehicle to the polling center. By 10 am on voting day some were still walking to the polling center.

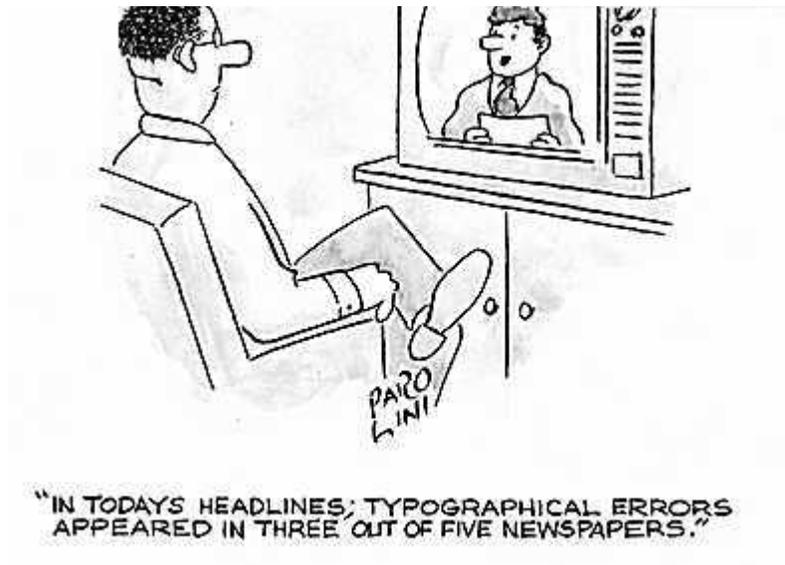
Sixty-five year old, Ernesto Otes from Oelkaem village, in the Pante Makasar subdistrict, was saddened to find out that he was not eligible to vote. He had waited in the long line but when it came to his turn to cast his ballot, one of the polling staff informed him that he would not be able to vote because he had only brought his UNTAET registration card and not his electoral card. He had been staying in the area for the week up to the election. "I felt very sad, because I lost my voice," said Mr. Otes who was disabled from a leg injury. When a journalist asked Mr. Otes, if it would be possible for him to retrieve his electoral card from Oelkaem, Mr. Otes explained that Oelkaem was 20 km away and with no transportation this would be impossible to make by foot for him.

ATTACHMENT G

Instructions and Reminders for Media Analysts

**Zach Alpern
Consultant to ICFJ**

May 2007



Instructions and Reminders for Media Analysis:

General Information

- ✓ Be sure to enter your initials when beginning to analyze a story (ZA)
- ✓ If working with a partner or team, enter all of your initials (ZA/VJ/ EB, etc...)
- ✓ Enter the Date as Day/Month/Year (IE, 4 May 2007 would read (4/5/2007)
- ✓ Enter the initials of the newspaper or station (STL, TP, RTL, etc..)
- ✓ Enter the *complete headline* as it appears in the paper

All stories should be classified in one of following categories:

- Elections (**EL**)
- Agriculture (**AG**)
- Politics (**PO**)
- Social Sector [health, education, family and gender issues] (**SC**)
- Economy (**EC**)
- Justice and Security [law, police, courts, etc...] (**JS**)

Analysis

Media Analysts should enter a *numeric score* into each category- if a question is not applicable, analysts should enter NA. Scoring should be made on the following scale:

1= Strongly Agree
2= Somewhat Agree
3= Somewhat Disagree
4= Strongly Disagree

Scoring should be based on the opinion of the individual media analysts.

This scoring should reflect the expertise media analysts have as:

- 1. Journalists and*
- 2. Employees of ICFJ who have received specialized training.*

Specific statements in the analysis tool are related to the Ten International Standards of Journalism:

- ✓ Lead and Introduction
 - ✓ Timeliness
 - ✓ Detail
- ✓ Background
 - ✓ Structure
 - ✓ Interest
 - ✓ Accuracy
 - ✓ Fairness
- ✓ Use of Direct Quotation
 - ✓ Clarity

Included in this manual is further information about 10 Standards of International Journalism. Also, more information about applying these standards to media analysis

ICFJ Advisors and Trainers are also a good resource for more information on professional journalism in East Timor.

!!Remember: Don't be afraid to ask questions!!



Following are some reminders for each statement in the media analysis tool.

- ❖ *Remember: You and your colleagues are your best resource! If you are unsure of something, ask a colleague!*

The Lead: The lead is the first thing a reader sees when they pick up a newspaper. A good lead determines whether or not someone will read the whole story.

1. **The lead is attention grabbing.** This is meant to assess whether or not the *headline plus the first paragraph* are interesting enough to get someone to read the story.
2. **The lead gives an accurate indication of what the story is about.** This is to make sure that the story is about the same specific subject as the *headline and first paragraph*.

Timeliness: Good news stories are usually about events in the recent past, things that are currently ongoing, or things that are about to happen.

3. **The story covers recent events.** This is to assess the story's *timeliness*. News should be about current events in Timor.
4. **This story provides updates about related events from the recent past.** This is to assess *timeliness* also. A news story should give information about recent events *related* to the current news story. Example: A story about Major Alfredo should include

information about things like what his disagreement with the government is, what the accusations against him are, and what he says he wants.

Detail: Specific details make understanding and visualizing a story easier for readers.

5. **General statements are supported with specific numbers, facts, and information.** This is to assess the story's *detail*. Example:

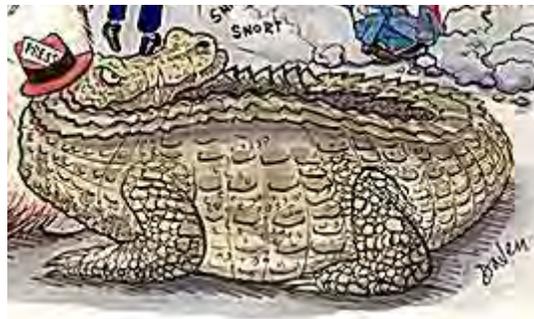
There were many people in Los Palos who voted. This would be better if it read: 5,000 men and 6,000 women voted for President in Los Palos on April 9th.

6. **This story includes a description of the environment or event.** This is to assess a story's *detail* also. Example: There was a protest in central Dili this weekend. This would be better if it read: Approximately 100 mostly young men protested outside of the Ministry of Employment on Saturday. They were protesting high unemployment in the capital city.

Background Information: Helps readers understand the story and how it relates to other events.

7. **The reasons for the story are discussed.** This is to assess whether a story provides adequate *background information* for a reader. A reader with no previous knowledge of an issue should be able to understand most of a news story. Example: Stories about the Presidential elections should include some information about the resignation or that the constitution mandates presidential elections at this time.

8. **The story provides context of how the topic fits into a larger story over time and place.** This is to assess whether story provides adequate *background information* as well. Example: Stories about the run-off election in May should mention the first election in April or that there will be Parliamentary elections in June, or similar elections related information.



Structure: A news story should present information in an easy to understand order.

9. **The body of the story supports the lead with details and evidence.** This is to assess the *structure* of the story. **Example:** If the lead of the story is about hunger in East Timor, the rest of the story should provide *more information* on the

same subject. This could be the cost of buying rice and vegetables, quotations from food and nutrition experts, etc..etc...

10. The different parts of the story are arranged in a clear order. This is to assess the *structure* of the story also. The most important information should be first, with other information following. It should be fairly easy for a reader to understand and follow the story.



Interest: A news story should be interesting to different types of people: city people, farmers, fishermen, teachers, merchants, etc....

11. The story is relevant to ordinary Timorese readers. This is to assess the *interest* of the story. News stories are for the *general public* not only for experts or government officials, etc...Example: A story about a new assistance package from the Japanese government is interesting to many readers. A story about a new employee at the Japanese embassy is probably not.

12. The story is interesting to Timorese readers living outside of Dili. This is to assess the *interest* of the story also. General news should be about matters of interest to a wide array of readers, not just residents of the capital.

Accuracy: A news story is easier to understand *and* more convincing if it is accurate.

13. The story uses precise names and titles. This is to assess the *accuracy* of the story. Precise identification is a good indicator of accuracy. Also, how a person is identified, or what their title

is, effects how we understand what that person has to say. Example: Mr. Francisco was giving a speech about taxes in Timor will be understood differently if the sentence says: Mr. Francisco, the Minister of Finance, explained his views on taxation.

- 14. This story uses multiple sources for verification.** This is to assess the *accuracy* of the story also. More than one source should be used when relating news. Example: The police report that crime in Dili has dropped significantly. It is more convincing if this is supported by information from the police as well as citizens, business people, and other officials.
- 15. This story uses precise times, dates, and places.** This is to assess the *accuracy* of the story also. Using precise times, dates and place names is an indicator of accuracy and helps readers to understand a story better. Example: There was a press conference last week. This would be better if it read: KOMEG held a press conference on April 11, two days after the presidential election, at the CNE media center at the University of Dili.
- 16. This story uses detailed descriptions of quantities, cost, size, etc...** This is to assess the *accuracy* of a story as well. Describing precise numbers, costs, or sizes (as appropriate) is an indicator of accuracy and helps readers to understand better. Example: The minister of roads does not favor building a new bridge because it would be expensive. This would be more accurate if it read: The minister does not want to build a new bridge. According to his estimates, it would cost 125,00 US dollars to build a 10 meter bridge.

Fairness: News should present information in a balanced way. News should show different opinions. News-writers should avoid telling their own opinions.

- 17. This story represents multiple points of view on the same subject.** This is to assess as story's *fairness*. Many news items will concern matters of opinion. There are always multiple opinions. Example: A news story about a new tax on rice should ideally relate the opinion of the Government, rice farmers, rice buyers, and rice sellers.

18. This story avoids expressing the reporters'/editors' opinion. This is to assess a story's *fairness* also. News stories (unlike opinion or editorial pieces) should avoid expressing the opinion of the writer or editor. The opinions expressed should represent those of people involved in the story. Like the rice merchants' mentioned above.



"That £10 rise you told me to keep quiet about -
I found out everybody else got £20."

Direct Quotation:
News stories can use quotes to simplify complex ideas, add interest, or represent multiple opinions.

Special Note: If a story does not use quotes at all, simply enter NA into the column

19. This story includes quotes from officials. This is to assess the use of *direct quotation*. Note: This is a yes/no type of statement. Scores should either be a 1 or a 4.

20. This story includes quotes from ordinary people. This is to assess the use of *direct*

quotation also. This is a yes/no type of statement. Scores should either be a 1 or a 4.

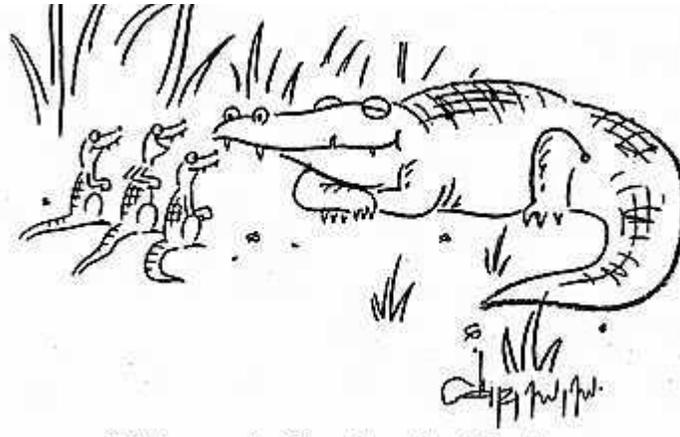
- 21. Quotes are presented as opinion rather than fact.** This is to assess the use of *direct quotation* also. What someone says is their opinion, and not a fact. It is important that news stories make this clear. Example: The Minister of Transport said “Paved roads are far too expensive for small towns.” This would be better if it read: The Minister of Transport’s thought on the subject is that “paved roads are far too expensive for small towns.”
- 22. Quotes provide a summary of more lengthy explanations.** This is to assess the use of *direct quotation* also. Quotations are a good way for a journalist to summarize a long or complicated item. Example: In the story about village roads mentioned above, we have the minister’s opinion about the financial cost of building a village road. This quotation is a summary of a longer explanation involving the cost per kilometer, the number of people and businesses that would benefit, the cost of maintenance, the government budget, etc....
- 23. Quotes in this story add new information rather than restating other information.** This is to assess the use of *direct quotation* as well. A quote should not just say the same thing as the rest of the story.

Clarity: News stories should be clear and simple to understand for most readers or listeners. They should not use overly complicated or confusing grammar or language.

- 24. This story is written in language that ordinary Timorese will understand.** This is to assess a story’s *clarity*. Readers should not need to have specialized education or knowledge to understand the newspaper.
- 25. This story is written in clear and simple sentences.** This is to assess a story’s *clarity* as well. Sentences should be in clear and simple language- making stories accessible to the largest

possible amount of readers or listeners.

- 26. This story explains technical terms that are used.** This is to assess a story's *clarity* as well. *Special Note: If technical terms are not used, simply enter NA.* Technical words or phrases that *an ordinary person* would not understand should be explained.
- 27. This story explains Portuguese terms that are used.** This is to assess a story's clarity as well. Many of the words and phrases used in government are in Portuguese. These should be translated or explained so that *an ordinary person* would understand them.



ATTACHMENT H

Quarterly Report (April - June 2007)

SUMMARY

The first quarter of the Strengthening Independent Media Program in Timor-Leste (SIMPTL) saw the following events:

- In May, IREX put Australian lawyer Julia Davey under contract to serve as part-time media law advisor to SIMPTL.
- In June, Davey made an initial trip to Timor-Leste.
- IREX continued preparations to conduct the first Media Sustainability Index for Timor-Leste.

ACTIVITIES

Media Sustainability Index for Timor-Leste. IREX continued preparations to conduct the first Media Sustainability Index (MSI) for Timor-Leste. The MSI is a comprehensive assessment of the strength of a country's media sector, using 38 indicators to examine progress toward five key objectives. The MSI data is comparable year to year, and the rankings are amplified by a narrative drawn from the assessments provided by the panels of media sector professionals from who conduct the MSI for the country in which they live and work. For the Timor-Leste MSI, the moderator manual and instructions for panelists have been refined in preparation for their translation to Bahasa Indonesia. At the advice of ICFJ DCOP Emanuel Braz, the materials will be presented in Indonesian and English. The resulting country report, however, will be translated to Tetum for widest distribution. It is anticipated that the MSI will be conducted during the next quarter.

Part-time Media Law Consultant. In June, IREX/SIMPTL's part-time media law consultant, Julia Davey, made an initial trip to Dili. Her primary focus was to meet representatives of media organizations, key media outlets, civil society groups with a focus on media or law, and any other persons or organizations involved in the development of media law in Timor-Leste. In addition, the media law consultant conducted a short training module with SIMPTL's local media law coordinator in Dili in relation to the basics of freedom of expression and media law.

In meeting with media organizations, Davey discussed the status of the draft media law and the best way to bring the media together to lobby for a media law that reflects international standards of freedom of expression, including the ways in which IREX and SIMPTL could lead or assist this process. Further, issues that concerned each outlet in relation to the draft were discussed and noted. Aspects of IREX's work plan was also discussed to gauge response of media outlets generally and identification of potential partners.

Davey's in-country visit coincided with the pre-election period in Timor-Leste. The previous government had prepared a draft law which covered various aspects of media law including broadcasting law for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), television and radio, general media law and a journalist's statute. All representatives met from the media did not approve of the law and voiced their concerns about the severe and excessive limitations on freedom of speech and the press. The exact status of this draft law is still unknown. It was presented to the Minister of the President for the Council of Ministers and some Deputy Ministers, but it was not widely circulated even within the government of the day. This draft has been translated and circulated to all media



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outlets and among some legal civil society organizations. Parliament has not considered the law, and prior to the election, laws were prioritized that they wished to pass prior to the election period; the media law was not one of them. The new parliament will be sworn-in in August and will commence their duties in the beginning of September. All voiced the opinion that should the current government continue, then consultations about this law will be non-existent.¹ Should the government change then all were optimistic that there would be a higher likelihood that consultations would occur and the government would be more receptive to consultations with journalists and the media sector. It was also widely opined that any change in government would also result in the draft not proceeding any further. At this point there is a hiatus in relation to the exact status of the draft media law, awaiting the results of the parliamentary election.

Further, it was generally observed that the draft law was heavily influenced by Portuguese law. Most media organizations stated there is a need to compare laws from countries with a closer connection to Timor-Leste in terms of development and geographical location. They stressed the importance of localizing any draft laws to ensure it applies to the Timor-Leste context. A glaring example of this is the lack of recognition of community radio in the draft media law.²

Due to the precise status of the draft media law remaining uncertain, it is difficult to formulate a precise plan for advocacy in relation to the development of media law. There was a general consensus that the media need to join together and become a 'force' to advocate for media laws that reflected freedom of speech and the press as enshrined in international law and the Constitution of Timor-Leste. There was general consensus that the media should draft their own law and present it to the government. The exact nature of this, whether it be a revised version of the previous government's draft, an entirely new law, or alternatively a policy paper outlining agreed principles, needs to await the outcome of the election and should be for all media outlets and journalists to decide. All media organizations agreed that there was a need for a national workshop to bring all journalists and media outlets together to discuss and decide on an advocacy plan. Most envisioned that this would include at least one international expert³ to assist them in the process of drafting a law. All also supported basic training prior to this workshop on freedom of expression, the press and international standards on media law. It was felt that many journalists do not know or understand what freedom of expression and the press actually means in the fulfillment of their work duties.

There was general agreement that an important factor that needed to be addressed was a lack of understanding amongst journalists and media outlets about the function and focus of media law, including what constituted freedom of expression. Whilst some journalists have had years of experience, most of this was in a climate that was not conducive to freedom of expression and of the press. Those that have an understanding of international standards are in the low minority. It was widely recognized that not all thought that media law was in fact needed.⁴ A further observation was that there was a resounding lack of understanding not just amongst the journalists of freedom of expression, but of all sectors of the community. This included members of parliament, the police and community leaders. Stories were recounted of intimidation by the police of journalists and a general fear of repercussions from authorities. A few also stated that the media in Timor-Leste are generally

¹ This included the lawyer commissioned to draft the law.

² Community radio is one of the most important types of broadcast media in Timor-Leste, it is widespread in all districts and reaches some of the most isolated communities.

³ A few thought more would be appropriate to provide a mixture of legal backgrounds

⁴ Whilst all persons met thought media law was necessary, almost all stated that not all media outlets were supportive of this view.

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fearful of authority and government institutions and as a result are not impartial and simply follow what is expected of them. This highlights the importance of a law providing vast protections to freedom of expression and the media.

It is apparent that there exists a need for basic training for both journalists and the wider community about freedom of expression. It was widely recognized that there exists a real need for further training beginning at a very basic level. There was support for training to begin as soon as possible in relation to a basic introduction to freedom of expression and the press. There also existed support for more comprehensive training to be provided after the status of the media law has been determined.

Legal Organisations: Among the legal organizations that Davey met, one potential partner was identified, namely the private lawyers bar association, or the Association of Lawyers of Timor-Leste (AATL). Avocats sans Frontiers (ASF) has been providing ongoing support for this organization, however it was noted that they have received their first grant in their own right from the World Bank as opposed to through ASF, which will test the ability of the organization in terms of their internal management.⁵ This project, although short-term, is focused on building their capacity to be a watchdog of legislation, including analyzing any draft laws, raising public awareness and providing a channel for public to provide input to the government and parliament. They are happy to explore the possibilities of working with IREX, in relation to receiving training, advocacy of any draft media laws and the media 'hotline'. Previously, two of their member lawyers were selected to assist Internews in relation to media law and other members have represented and advised media outlets in relation to defamation. It should be recognized however that the standard of legal research and analysis generally in Timor-Leste is of a low standard.⁶ The other legal organization that could be considered is the Judicial Systems Monitoring Program (JSMP). They are too willing to work with IREX and assist in the advocacy and lobbying process for media law, however admitted they have had no previous experience in media law or freedom of expression.⁷

Davey made a series of recommendations regarding current media law goals and upcoming program plans:

1. That the previous Broadcast Policy Paper and draft Broadcasting Law be re-distributed in a local language⁸ to allow the broadcast media an opportunity to reconsider whether to re-present this draft to the new government/parliament

The radio broadcast media should be given an opportunity to decide if they wish to represent these papers to the new minister or parliament as part of a media law package. This should also include the option of updating the papers, particular whether or not to include television.

⁵ Often management including both project and financial management has posed many challenges to local organisations.

⁶ This is due to primarily two reasons, firstly the overwhelming majority of lawyers were educated in Indonesia and that style of education that does not foster independent analytical skills, further the resounding lack of resources make it difficult to conduct research.

⁷ It has been noted by the author that there has been some management difficulties recently in terms of both financial and internal program management.

⁸ The Timor-Leste Media Development Centre (TLMDC) should still have copies in Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese and English.



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2. That IREX support and organize a national workshop with the two aims of providing basic freedom of expression and media law training and to assist in devising a joint submission on media law to the government/parliament.

Support exists amongst media outlets and journalists for holding a national workshop with two broad aims of providing basic training in relation to freedom of expression and international standards for media law, and to begin collaboration to draft a submission or a law from the media. From discussions had with media outlets it is apparent that there is general confusion about what freedom of expression and freedom of the press actually means. Some reported that there are many different interpretations amongst media outlets and journalists. It also is apparent that there is a lot of confusion about the role of a media law. Many suggested that the role of media law would be to ensure journalists professionalism and to address the concern that journalists lack the appropriate skills and the quality of their reporting is quite low. It was also noted that members across the community misunderstand freedom of expression and this hampers journalists' ability to fulfill their role. Some suggested that any basic training include inviting all members of the public and community leaders particularly the police, judges, government ministers and parliamentarians.

All media outlets expressed the desire to draft a media law by the media themselves, and that the law needs to come from the people through the government, as opposed to the government handing down and imposing a law on the media. The media outlets need to decide: what they want to draft, whether that be a law or policy submission paper, the process for completion (for example one suggestion was agreeing on broad general principles and electing a representative working party to discuss and decide on finer detail to then submit back to the larger group for approval)⁹ and a timeline for completion. Almost all media outlets requested that IREX organize for a legal expert to assist in the drafting process.

3. IREX lead the follow up of the national workshop to ensure that the objectives of the national workshop are met.
4. Media Law Co-coordinator track any progress in relation to new media laws or other laws affecting the media and lobby on behalf of the media to the government and parliament.

It is imperative that at this junction the Media Law Coordinator maintain an awareness of the status of the draft media law and position of the new parliament and government in relation to this draft and media law generally. As soon as the new parliament is sworn in, lobbying should begin. Further, the President, Dr Jose Ramos Horta previously was supportive of protecting the freedom of the media and this relationship needs to be fostered. Awareness also is needed on the progress of other laws which can affect the media, freedom of the press or unjustly discriminates against them. This includes the penal code, which is still in a state of uncertainty and originally included criminal defamation. Also, of note is the recently passed Amnesty law which excludes amnesty for offences committed through the media.

5. Launch of the legal hotline may be difficult to achieve in the first program year, however identification of a partner is achievable and laying the foundations of a working relationship. The difficulty lies primarily in that the focus of IREX's program has been altered by the emergence of

⁹ This is the same process that was used by Internews in relation to the radio broadcasting law submission

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the draft media law, and it has become apparent throughout this year that there is a real and urgent need to focus on developing the media law in Timor-Leste. Given the uncertainty of the status of the media law, a decision needs to be made whether legal training is given now on the current law, given that it could possibly be out of date in the near future, or whether to await the possible promulgation of new media law and then provide training. However, in the latter situation, it maybe the case that no new law is passed, or it takes an inordinate amount of time to be passed.¹⁰ All journalist and media organizations felt it best to focus now on advocacy for the development of media law, and then provide legal training on any new law enacted.

6. That the Media Law Coordinator continue to foster a working relationship with AATL in relation to lobbying, analysis and advocacy for positive laws for the media.

A partnership with a local legal organization could begin now by assisting IREX lobbying and analyzing any laws that affect the media. This would also be a beginning of training any interested lawyers on the basics of media law and international standards for freedom of expression. As stated above, one potential partner is AATL, and two of their members have previously been involved in media law. Further, they are commencing a project now that is focusing on advocacy and analysis of draft laws. This would also provide IREX an opportunity to investigate the appropriateness of AAT L becoming the partner for the media hotline.

7. Recruitment occurs for a further Timorese staff member for the project.

Another approach that has been considered is to first host the hotline in-house at the project. This would provide the Media Law Coordinator with much needed assistance in ensuring the objectives of the IREX program are met and would begin the process of training lawyers, and establishing the hotline. This could then be moved outhouse once a suitable partner has been identified and has the appropriate level of expertise to host the hotline. Initially, in the first program year only one further staff member is needed, and this could easily be re-assessed in the program plan for the second program year. Recruitment of a further local staff member is considered appropriate given the amount of work that is currently required to be completed, regardless of the plans for the hotline. The decision about whether to host the hotline in or out house could easily be made at a later date.

ADMINISTRATIVE/OTHER

Part-time Media Law Consultant. After months of recruiting and after obtaining ICFJ concurrence, IREX put Australian lawyer Julia Davey under contract to work on media law issues for IREX/SIMPTL. Ms. Davey is an experienced lawyer with legal experience in her native Australia as well as Timor-Leste.

REPORTING THIS PERIOD

1. Davey, Julia. Draft Trip Report (June 2007).

¹⁰ A similar situation occurred with many projects focusing on the penal code, which is still not passed after over a year of being presented for promulgation to the President (not including any consultation period).

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ATTACHMENT I

Report to IREX

Media Law Consultant's Timor-Leste visit

June 2007

A Overview

This being the first visit of the Media Law Adviser the focus was primarily on meeting all the representative media organizations, key media outlets, civil society groups with either a focus on media or law and any other persons or organizations who are involved in the development of media law. The discussions at most of the meetings centred on the previous government's draft media law, the general state of the media law, the media and journalists perception and position about media law and the processes needed to enhance media law in Timor-Leste.

In addition, the Media Law Adviser conducted a short training module with the Media Law Co-coordinator in relation to the basics of freedom of expression and media law.

Lastly, a review was conducted of the IREX work plan with input from the Media Law Coordinator. This included setting work objectives for the Media Law Co-coordinator (attached Appendix A).

B Activities

Meetings were held with various journalist associations and media outlets, primarily those that represent the media and some legal civil society organizations. A list of meetings held and those in attendance is included at the end of the report. The purposes of these meetings were to introduce IREX's program, myself, the Media Law Coordinator and the work that IREX will conduct in the future in relation to the development of media law. In meeting with media organizations the status of the draft media law and the best way to bring the media together to lobby for a media law that reflects international standards of freedom of expression was discussed, including the ways in which IREX could lead or assist this process. Further, issues that concerned each outlet in relation to the draft were discussed and noted. Aspects of IREX's work plan was also discussed to gauge response of media outlets generally and identification of potential partners.

Training was also provided to the Media Law Coordinator. This comprised of a 'crash course' and included an introduction and overview of international law and standards in relation to freedom of expression and limitations on this freedom with a particular focus on the media. A summary of the main issues was produced, provided and discussed with the Coordinator. Further, some articles from the draft media law were discussed in light of the international standards that were introduced.

In addition, discussions about IREX's work plan and objectives were held with the Media Law Co-coordinator. Also, personal objectives of the Media law co-coordinator were discussed and agreed upon in line with the objectives of IREX's program.

Prior to the attendance in-country preparation activities included reading and considering the draft media law, reviewing international best practices in relation to media law and freedom of speech and preparation of the ‘crash course’ for the Media Law Adviser.

C General Findings

The present time is of great importance to the future of media law in Timor-Leste. The previous government commissioned a draft media law which was completed and presented to some ministers within government, which has not yet been passed or discussed at length. In addition, as it is currently election time, there is a small hiatus in terms of the parliament and government not being able to pass any new laws. It may also result in a change of government which will most probably result in the current draft not proceeding any further. This opens a window of opportunity for IREX to begin planning a campaign for development of media law through consultations with the media.

1. Status and Development of Media Law

This in-country visit coincided with the pre-election period in Timor-Leste. The previous government had prepared a draft law which covered various aspects of media law including broadcasting law for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), television and radio, general media law and a journalist’s statute. All representatives met from the media did not approve of the law and voiced their concerns about the severe and excessive limitations on freedom of speech and the press. The exact status of this draft law is still unknown. It was presented to the Minister of the President for the Council of Ministers and some Deputy Ministers, but it was not widely circulated even within the government of the day. This draft has been translated and circulated to all Media outlets and amongst some legal civil society organizations. Parliament has not considered the law, and prior to the election, laws were prioritized that they wished to pass prior to the election period and the media law was not one of them. The new parliament will be sworn in in August and will commence their duties in the beginning of September. All voiced the opinion that should the current government continue, then consultations about this law will be non-existent.¹ Should the government change then all were optimistic that there would be a higher likelihood that consultations would occur and the government would be more receptive to consultations with journalists and the media sector. It was also widely opined that any change in government would also result in the draft not proceeding any further. At this point there is a hiatus in relation to the exact status of the draft media law, awaiting the results of the parliamentary election.

Further, it was generally observed that the draft law was heavily influenced by Portuguese law. Most media organizations stated there is a need to compare laws from countries with a closer connection to Timor-Leste in terms of development and geographical location. They stressed the importance of localizing any draft laws to ensure it applies to the Timor-Leste context. A glaring example of this is the lack of recognition of community radio in the draft media law.²

¹ This included the lawyer commissioned to draft the law.

² Community radio is one of the most important types of broadcast media in Timor-Leste, it is widespread in all districts and reaches some of the most isolated communities.

2. Previous work completed on Media Law

Previously Internews led a consultation process with all radio broadcasters in Timor-Leste with the aim to draft a policy submission paper outlining their agreed position on a law dealing with broadcasting. This resulted in a policy submission paper being drafted and an example draft law (both attached). The policy paper and draft law which were completed in 2004 never went further than presentation to the Adviser to the then Minister who was responsible for Media and Communications. At that time the submission did not progress as the law in relation to broadcasting and the media was not within the Adviser's competencies, it was not a priority for the Minister and they simply did not have the time as they were busy preparing other laws. The broadcasters in Timor-Leste need to consider whether they wish to re-present this paper and draft law to the new government and whether or not it requires any updating. This paper and draft notably does not include television and thus can not be used as a complete broadcasting law. Internews also began working on a draft media law, however this was not completed for numerous reasons.

3. Plans for Advocacy of Media Law

Due to the precise status of the draft media law remaining uncertain, it is difficult to formulate a precise plan for advocacy in relation to the development of media law. There was a general consensus that the media need to join together and become a 'force' to advocate for media laws that reflected freedom of speech and the press as enshrined in international law and the Constitution of Timor-Leste. There was general consensus that the media should draft their own law and present it to the government. The exact nature of this, whether it be a revised version of the previous government's draft, an entirely new law, or alternatively a policy paper outlining agreed principles, needs to await the outcome of the election and should be for all media outlets and journalists to decide. All media organizations agreed that there was a need for a national workshop to bring all journalists and media outlets together to discuss and decide on an advocacy plan. Most envisaged that this would include at least one international expert³ to assist them in the process of drafting a law. All also supported basic training prior to this workshop on freedom of expression, the press and international standards on media law. It was felt that many journalists do not know or understand what freedom of expression and the press actually means in the fulfillment of their work duties.

4. Media outlets and Journalists Knowledge of Media Law

There was general agreement that an important factor that needed to be addressed was a lack of understanding amongst journalists and media outlets about the function and focus of media law, including what constituted freedom of expression. Whilst some journalists have had years of experience, most of this was in a climate that was not conducive to freedom of expression and of the press. Those that have an understanding of international standards are in the low minority. It was widely recognized that not all thought that media law was in fact needed.⁴ A further observation was that there was a resounding lack of understanding not just amongst the journalists of freedom of expression, but of all sectors of the community. This included members of parliament, the police and community leaders. Stories were

³ A few thought more would be appropriate to provide a mixture of legal backgrounds

⁴ Whilst all persons met thought media law was necessary, almost all stated that not all media outlets were supportive of this view.

recounted of intimidation by the police of journalists and a general fear of repercussions from authorities. A few also stated that the media in Timor-Leste are generally fearful of authority and government institutions and as a result are not impartial and simply follow what is expected of them. This highlights the importance of a law providing vast protections to freedom of expression and the media.

It is apparent that there exists a need for basic training for both journalists and the wider community about freedom of expression. It was widely recognized that there exists a real need for further training beginning at a very basic level. There was support for training to begin as soon as possible in relation to a basic introduction to freedom of expression and the press. There also existed support for more comprehensive training to be provided after the status of the media law has been determined.

5. Legal Organisations

Amongst the legal organizations that meetings were held with one potential partner was identified, namely the private lawyers bar association, or the Association of Lawyers of Timor-Leste (AATL). Avocats sans Frontiers (ASF) has been providing ongoing support for this organization, however it was noted that they have received their first grant in their own right from the World Bank as opposed to through ASF, which will test the ability of the organization in terms of their internal management.⁵ This project, whilst short-term is focused on building their capacity to be a watchdog of legislation, including analyzing any draft laws, raising public awareness and providing a channel for public to provide input to the government and parliament. They are happy to explore the possibilities of working with IREX, in relation to receiving training, advocacy of any draft media laws and the media 'hotline'. Previously, two of their member lawyers were selected to assist Internews in relation to media law and other members have represented and advised media outlets in relation to defamation. It should be recognized however that the standard of legal research and analysis generally in Timor-Leste is of a low standard.⁶ The other legal organization that could be considered is the Judicial Systems Monitoring Program (JSMP). They are too willing to work with IREX and assist in the advocacy and lobbying process for media law, however admitted they have had no previous experience in media law or freedom of expression.⁷

⁵ Often management including both project and financial management has posed many challenges to local organisations.

⁶ This is due to primarily two reasons, firstly the overwhelming majority of lawyers were educated in Indonesia and that style of education that does not foster independent analytical skills, further the resounding lack of resources make it difficult to conduct research.

⁷ It has been noted by the author that there has been some management difficulties recently in terms of both financial and internal program management.

D Recommendations

1. IREX Work Plan Recommendations

Objective 6.10

Recommendation 1.1: That the previous Broadcast Policy Paper and draft Broadcasting Law be re-distributed in a local language⁸ to allow the broadcast media an opportunity to reconsider whether to re-present this draft to the new government/parliament

The radio broadcast media should be given an opportunity to decide if they wish to represent these papers to the new minister or parliament as part of a media law package. This should also include the option of updating the papers, particular whether or not to include television.

Objective 6.20

Recommendation 1.2: That IREX support and organize a national workshop with the two aims of providing basic freedom of expression and media law training and to assist in devising a joint submission on media law to the government/parliament.

Support exists amongst media outlets and journalists for holding a national workshop with two broad aims of providing basic training in relation to freedom of expression and international standards for media law, and to begin collaboration to draft a submission or a law from the media. From discussions had with media outlets it is apparent that there is general confusion about what freedom of expression and freedom of the press actually means. Some reported that there are many different interpretations amongst media outlets and journalists. It also is apparent that there is a lot of confusion about the role of a media law. Many suggested that the role of media law would be to ensure journalists professionalism and to address the concern that journalists lack the appropriate skills and the quality of their reporting is quite low. It was also noted that members across the community misunderstand freedom of expression and this hampers journalists' ability to fulfill their role. Some suggested that any basic training include inviting all members of the public and community leaders particularly the police, judges, government ministers and parliamentarians.

All media outlets expressed the desire to draft a media law by the media themselves, and that the law needs to come from the people through the government, as opposed to the government handing down and imposing a law on the media. The media outlets need to decide: what they want to draft, whether that be a law or policy submission paper, the process for completion (for example one suggestion was agreeing on broad general principles and electing a representative working party to discuss and decide on finer detail to then submit back to the larger group for approval)⁹ and a timeline for completion. Almost

⁸ The Timor-Leste Media Development Centre (TLMDC) should still have copies in Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese and English.

⁹ This is the same process that was used by Internews in relation to the radio broadcasting law submission

all media outlets requested that IREX organize for a legal expert to assist in the drafting process.

Recommendation 1.3: IREX lead the follow up of the national workshop to ensure that the objectives of the national workshop are met.

Recommendation 1.4: Media Law Co-coordinator track any progress in relation to new media laws or other laws affecting the media and lobby on behalf of the media to the government and parliament.

It is imperative that at this junction the Media Law Coordinator maintain an awareness of the status of the draft media law and position of the new parliament and government in relation to this draft and media law generally. As soon as the new parliament is sworn in, lobbying should begin. Further, the President, Dr Jose Ramos Horta previously was supportive of protecting the freedom of the media and this relationship needs to be fostered. Awareness also is needed on the progress of other laws which can affect the media, freedom of the press or unjustly discriminates against them. This includes the penal code, which is still in a state of uncertainty and originally included criminal defamation. Also, of note is the recently passed Amnesty law which excludes amnesty for offences committed through the media.

Objective 6.30

The launching of the hotline may be difficult to achieve in the first program year, however identification of a partner is achievable and laying the foundations of a working relationship. The difficulty lies primarily in that the focus of IREX's program has been altered by the emergence of the draft media law, and it has become apparent throughout this year that there is a real and urgent need to focus on developing the media law in Timor-Leste. Given the uncertainty of the status of the media law, a decision needs to be made whether legal training is given now on the current law, given that it could possibly be out of date in the near future, or whether to await the possible promulgation of new media law and then provide training. However, in the latter situation, it maybe the case that no new law is passed, or it takes an inordinate amount of time to be passed.¹⁰ All journalist and media organizations felt it best to focus now on advocacy for the development of media law, and then provide legal training on any new law enacted.

Recommendation 1.5: That the Media Law Coordinator continue to foster a working relationship with AATL in relation to lobbying, analysis and advocacy for positive laws for the media.

A partnership with a local legal organization could begin now by assisting IREX lobbying and analyzing any laws that affect the media. This would also be a beginning of training any interested lawyers on the basics of media law and international standards for freedom of expression. As stated above, one potential partner is AATL, and two of their members have previously been involved in media law. Further, they are commencing a project now that is focusing on advocacy and analysis of draft laws. This would also provide IREX an

¹⁰ A similar situation occurred with many projects focusing on the penal code, which is still not passed after over a year of being presented for promulgation to the President (not including any consultation period).

opportunity to investigate the appropriateness of AAT L becoming the partner for the media hotline.

Recommendation 1.6: Recruitment occurs for a further Timorese staff member for the project.

Another approach that has been considered is to first host the hotline in-house at the project. This would provide the Media Law Coordinator with much needed assistance in ensuring the objectives of the IREX program are met and would begin the process of training lawyers, and establishing the hotline. This could then be moved outhouse once a suitable partner has been identified and has the appropriate level of expertise to host the hotline. Initially, in the first program year only one further staff member is needed, and this could easily be re-assessed in the program plan for the second program year. Recruitment of a further local staff member is considered appropriate given the amount of work that is currently required to be completed, regardless of the plans for the hotline. The decision about whether to host the hotline in or out house could easily be made at a later date.

2. Media Law Co-coordinator's Professional Development

For success of IREX's program it is important that the Media Law Co-coordinator be given every opportunity to increase his skill base. These recommendations have been discussed with him and are put forward as joint recommendations.

Recommendation 2.1: That IREX support an English course for the Media Law Coordinator.

At the moment the Media Law Coordinator is able to understand some English, however is not able to speak it with confidence and makes some errors in writing. Given that he is the coordinator he will be required to meet and discuss both IREX program objectives and issues surrounding media law with English speakers, it is imperative he improve his English. Further, most available resources about media law are in English and should he be able to understand these fully his ability to research and improve his knowledge of international standards of freedom of expression and media law will increase at a faster pace.

Recommendation 2.2: That IREX support a computer course for the Media Law Coordinator.

Currently he has a basic knowledge of computers. His day to day work requires frequent use of computers, including word processing, internet and email. To increase his efficiency at work a computer course in word processing and use of the internet would be of great advantage. It would also be useful for him to gain at least a basic understanding of excel, however the focus should be on Microsoft Word and the internet for research purposes. As Timor-Leste does not have any large library resources the internet is the main source of information, it is vital that he improve his skills in this area.

Recommendation 2.3: That IREX support the training in the area of the media law of the co-coordinator and the establishment of relationships in the South East Asia through conferences

The co-coordinator has no background in media law and has only a general legal background as an investigating judge. He is able to utilize the Media Law Adviser as a resource for

training and discussion about international standards and media law; however it would be of great assistance both to the program and the Media Law Coordinator to attend any local conferences on the issues of media law and freedom of expression. This would allow the co-coordinator to learn through the experiences of other practitioners and experts in the South East Asia area and make invaluable contacts in the geographical area.

Recommendation 2.4: That IREX as a matter of urgency provide program management and administration training to the Media Law Co-coordinator

It is unclear at this point who is ultimately responsible for the work of the Media Law Coordinator and who he must report to. This needs to be clarified. At the moment the position is a joint position with ICFJ and it is apparent that he needs ongoing support from ICFJ in terms of implementing work plans and day to day activities. However, he also needs assistance in laying the foundations of the IREX program and getting things started. It is imperative to the success of the IREX program that he be able to effectively manage the day to day objectives of the program. His experience in managing programs is non-existent and he initially needs a lot of support. This in my recommendation could be achieved by hiring an international to work side by side with Francisco for one to two months to provide him with intensive on the job training. There are also some local short courses available in management and administration that IREX could support.

Recommendation 2.5: That IREX provided logistical support to the Media Law Co-coordinator including fuel and car usage allowance and mobile telephone credit.

ICFJ have cars that can be used by the Media Law Coordinator for work purposes. When these cars are not available he uses his personal car. It is recommended that IREX provide an allowance per kilometer to cover both petrol and depreciation of the vehicle. In addition, ICFJ make available the office telephone for use; however he is required to make regular calls outside the office. It is recommended that IREX purchase mobile phone credit for him on a monthly basis.¹¹

E Meetings

Meetings held with the following people/organisations:

Carlito Caminha – Photographers Association of Timor-Leste (TLPA)
Expedito Dias Ximenes - President of the Board of Radio Television Timor-Leste (RTTL)
Francisco da Silva – Director of Timor-Leste Media Development Centre (TLMDC)
Otelito Ote – President of Sindicato
Eurico Pereira – President of Community Radio Association Timor-Leste (ARKTL)
Timotio de Deus – Director of Judicial Systems Monitoring Programme (JSMP)
Luis de Oliveria – Co-coordinator of Victim Support Service (JSMP)
Roberto da Costa Pacheco – Legal Research Unit Co-coordinator (JSMP)
Tomas Da Costa, Legal Research Unit – JSMP (Judicial Systems Monitoring Programme)
Virgilio da Silva Guterres – President of Journalists Association of Timor-Leste (AJTL)

¹¹ Perhaps begin with \$10-15 per month.

Antonio Diaz – Director Television Timor-Leste (TVTL)
Tiago Sarmiento – Legal Coordinator, The Asia Foundation
Sofia Calado – lawyer commissioned to draft the Media Law for the previous government
Luis Evaristo – Director, Community Radio Centre (CRC)
Laurente Freitas Ximenes – Station Manager, Community Radio Manatutu
Dolce Trindade – Office Manager and Training Assistant, CRC
Emanuel Braz – Deputy Director, International Centre for Journalists
Benevides Correia Barros – President, Lawyers Association of Timor-Leste (AATL)
Melanie Reimer – Head of Mission, Avocats Sans Frontiers
Christine Kearney – previously of Internews, Timor-Leste (meeting not held in-country but information gained from her through contact after visit)