



BAIRRO PITÉ CLINIC

Bairro Pite Clinic, Dili, East Timor
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Recently on November 28th, we commemorated the Thirtieth anniversary of Unilateral Declaration of Independence of East Timor proclaimed by the Majority Party of the country – FRETILIN. The commemoration was celebrated throughout East Timor. In the capital, the ceremony took place at the Government Palace at 8.00 am. The programme started by observing brief silence to honour the political heroes, martyrs and the religious members who sacrificed their lives to gain the independence. It is compulsory for all citizens to recall the struggle that has contributed to the political development in our country during the period of Indonesian Occupation over the 24 years after 1975.

Many families have lost fathers mothers, sons and daughters in this struggle. Some still do not know their whereabouts. Orphaned children often had no one to take care of them. The suffering inflicted by the Indonesian Forces was repeated many times during that 24 years. Now, they have no possibility of continuing their education, they have no job, little livelihood, a lost generation. We lost potential experts in many fields; education, medicine, agriculture, finance and government. Children are the future of any nation. They need to have a good education, protection of their security, good health and love. We are still a new country, a flower that has just been planted and still fragile. We need to enlist support or assistance in developing our country from the rest of the world. Now, we have had Independence approved by the UN for three years.

Some group of Musical Band from the CPLP (Nations Communities of Portuguese Language) countries arrived in the country. Their objectives are to celebrate this important day together with all the Timorese, to entertain and to share some musical experiences. They presented a concert together with at least 10 East Timorese musical bands at the Foot Ball Stadium. There was a large audience to enjoy the music and experience

We have received medical equipment that had been kept in the former Portuguese Hospital. The equipment is very useful for the Clinic. Even though some have been damaged in transit or storage, we can try to repair the damage to use in the Clinic

Now, most of the staff are wearing the new Clinic uniforms during their day. The size was chosen to suit all except that some had to be shortened a few centimetres. We have replaced the old tables and put the dividers board, which one in TBC wards and one are close to the registration room.

Regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between our Clinic and Universidade da Paz, the University requests us to make a consultation every Saturday morning for their students who are in a traineeship time. We provide the consultation in Mota Ikun near by Bazartete.

1. Establishment of HIV / AIDS Patients Group

We have diagnosed thirteen patients with HIV in our clinic. These patients are not just sexual workers but ordinary citizens. They are receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS now. Some NGO's are

willing to support treating these patients assisting the Clinic with donations, medication and knowledge.

We had established a support group for HIV/AIDS patients called TIMOR–AIDS. The Clinic aims to educate East Timorese that:

- HIV/AIDS is already present in our country.
- HIV/AIDS does not belong to or come from the foreigners.
- HIV/AIDS cannot be cured.
- Medications are available to help keep a patient healthy and active.
- To reduce the transmission of HIV requires men and women to practise abstinence, monogamy and safe sex through the use of condoms.
- To increase detection of HIV through an antenatal screening program to identify mothers and provide treatment to reduce the risk to her newborn baby.
- To screen anyone who is suspected of having HIV or AIDS by either their actions or illness.
- To liaise with Dili National Hospital, Ministry of Health, International NGO's and other agencies regarding the care of HIV and AIDS patients.

Many people assume that this disease could easily be spread to other people in a way similar to tuberculosis that is spread through the air. We aim to educate the people of East Timor how HIV is spread and what can be done to minimise its harm to our people. One way is to use the testimony of real patients to share the HIV story.

The Testimony Programme will be the first step to minimise the stigma of this illness in the community and maybe reduce its spread through ignorance. An objective is to create an environment within their family and the community where stories can be shared and to provide spiritual and material needs for these people.

It is important to remember that children will suffer when HIV affects an adult. A child maybe orphaned by the slow death of an affected parent or is affected themselves through birth to an infected mother or by contact with the virus.

2. Volunteers Development

Some medical students who have just returned to home to their country include Shannon, Mathew and Rebecca.

The old faces still present are Leesl, Virginia, Mary, Simon, and Dr. Thiha Maung Maung who work along with two female Timorese medical doctors and Dr. Daniel.

There are a few new volunteers who have just arrived. These include medical students Daniel, David, John and a couple from Australia. Steve, Helen and Benjamin are from England along with two Timorese medical students.

3. General Information

We have visited Hatubuilico twice for mobile clinic during this month on the 4th and 25th November. We reached over 50 people.

Paula Ximenes, the coordinator of woman's health of Bairro Pité Clinic, had a meeting with the local authorities to expand our service in Hatubuilico. The local government has requested Bairro Pité Clinic should provide more medical and humanitarian assistance for the people of Hatubuilico.

Maria da Silva, a traditional midwife who did three months training in Bairro Pité Clinic, has returned to Hatubuilico. We gave her a midwife's kit to assist her work. She learnt a lot in the short period of time she was at our Clinic. We hope that she will carry the philosophy of our Clinic to reduce the suffering of people of East Timor by providing good service for the woman in Hatubuilico. We sure will miss Maria and her help in Maternity. We certainly will keep in touch with her and assist where able.

Mrs Christine Carberry from AFAP, our permanent donor, is visiting us. We had a talk regarding the financial system that we need to apply to operate the fund to run the clinic.

4. Patient Record

Month	General Consultation	Maternity	Post Partum	Family Planning	Immunization	Dental Care	Inpatient	Total
October, 2005	3449	308	40	Oral contraceptive pill = 29, Depo Provera = 205	TT1 = 163, TT 2 = 99, BCG = 64, DPT 1 = 86, DPT 3 = 81, Measles = 81	322	308	5235
November, 2005	4434	587	77	Depo Provera = 339, Condoms = 0 Oral contraceptive pill = 40,	TT1 = 208, TT2 = 107 BCG = 110 DPT 1 = 72 DPT 2 = 69 DPT 3 = 96 Measles = 44 Polio 1 = 110 Polio 3 = 93	379	190	6955

5. Great and Sad History

Custodio and Raimundo, are two East Timorese medical students in their third and second year of medicine in Fiji, respectively. They arrived back home in East Timor this month. They are working voluntarily, assisting consultations and translation for the international volunteers and doctors in the Medical Centre and at the Mobile Clinic.

Recently, we received medical supplies from Australia sent with the assistance of Conoco Phillips. The supplies donated by Mr. Elwin Taylor, an Australian who works for one of the hospital in Darwin. He promises to support us every time he visits this country but it depends on the process of good delivery and the rule of customs. We appreciate his contributions to keeping the Clinic running.

By : Ana Jeánnie C – Real !

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