



MEDIA RELEASE

ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR OF TIMOR-LESTE

September, 2016

LG Professionals Australia is pleased to announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State Administration; to develop and strengthen cooperation to build the capacity of Timor-Leste's local government sector.

The signing took place at Timor-Leste's 5th Conference on **Deconcentration, Administrative Decentralization and Local Government**, held in Dili, August 17-18, where LG Professionals Australia also became a signatory to the Dili Declaration.

'This MoU reinforces our friendship with Timor-Leste and paves the way for new opportunities to work together in the future,' said LG Professionals Australia CEO, Lauren Oakey who attended the conference with Board Members, Dennis Hovenden and Ricki Bruhn.

The MoU provides a framework to offer technical support to the newly established municipal governments of Timor-Leste and work closely on local governance systems. It supports the existing framework of collaboration between the Government of Victoria and Timor-Leste.

'The great strength of local government is place-based governance; because local government is on the ground, close to residents; it develops a specific and unique understanding of the challenges faced and the opportunities that could work in each unique area. With our long experience and extensive Australian and international networks, LG Professionals Australia is well-placed to offer the technical support to build the necessary governance systems that will enable the communities, the economy and society of Timor-Leste to reap the benefits of strong and effective local government.' said Lauren Oakey.

LG Professionals Australia has a long history of working and connecting with our peers in our region to promote capacity within local government. We have provided both technical exchange and assistance on the profession of local government since the 1960s, with the local government sector in Papua New Guinea. Today, we have active technical assistance programs in Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Fiji, in addition to a growing base of affiliate partnerships with peer organisations in New Zealand, Canada, United States, United Kingdom and Kiribati. These partnerships are all aimed at advancing the profession of local level or municipal government, and increasing the capacity of the sector to meet the needs of their communities.

Central to the work achieved at the conference, the Dili Declaration expresses the intention of all signatories to work towards the implementation of free and democratic local government in Timor-

Leste; to provide more, high-quality public goods and services to the citizens. The aim is to foster cooperation with the government, share knowledge and experience, support the private sector, and encourage connections between the civil societies of Australia, Portugal and Timor-Leste to improve the social and economic conditions that impact the citizens' quality of life.

About LG Professionals Australia

First established in 1936, LG Professionals Australia is the federated peak body representing the local government professionals, senior managers and emerging leaders of the more than 500 local councils across Australia. The National Board, comprising CEOs and senior managers from around Australia, meets in Canberra three times a year.

With a national perspective and network, we support programs to attract and develop the best people, and facilitate and enable connections between both professionals and councils around Australia and internationally. Working closely with our federation partners in each state, we celebrate the strengths and capabilities of the sector while supporting and mediating innovative solutions, and sharing success stories as well as the thinking and strategies behind them.

We work to improve the lives and opportunities of communities via transferrable knowledge and advocate a greater local government role at the national and state level of political decision-making and implementation across the country.

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