from a recent visit to the highly successful Mindil Beach Markets in Darwin by the Minister of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, Ky GiliAlves, who was impressed with the range of local and international products on sale and the large numbers of visitors to the event, which has become one of Darwin’s leading tourism attractions and a major contributor to the economy of the Northern Territory.

“I thought to myself, 'we could do something like this in Dili'. We have the products, we have the location, we have the talent and we are keen to expand the range of experiences that Timor Leste can offer to tourists, as well as the market for our local handicrafts”, Alves said. The Sunset Fair location at Kristu Rei has recently been renovated by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry. “This is a fantastic use of this purpose-built tourism facility,” Quinias said. “There is a performance arena, plenty of parking and space for up to 50 stalls. It is right beside one of our country’s most beautiful white sand beaches, with spectacular views of the sunset and it is surrounded by a nature reserve. I am sure that the Sunset Fair will be a great addition to our night life in Dili and will be popular with both foreign and local tourists, especially families”.

The Mindil Beach Sunset Market Association Inc will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Directorate of Tourism, to share their expertise with their Timorese counterparts in launching and developing the Sunset Fair. MBSSA General Manager, Kyle McCoart, who paid a visit to Dili recently to discuss that agreement, said that the technical support being offered to the Sunset Fair organisers would include advice, training, cross-promotion and regular exchanges of traders and entertainers between the two events. “I believe that Mindil Markets’ relationship with the Sunset Fair will be a two-way street,” McCoart said. “One of our aims is to promote the sharing of cultural community and we are looking forward to developing long-term ties with our friends in Dili, so that we can learn more about what Timor-Leste has to offer in terms of products and cultural experiences, to the benefit of both parties. We would love to see some Timorese traders and visitors over here at Mindil”.

A delegation from the MBSSA will be travelling to Timor-Leste to participate in the September 2010 inauguration of the Sunset Fair, which is expected to run every Wednesday evening throughout the dry season, from October 6th until December 15th 2010. Sunset Fair will be offering a wide range of local and international culinary specialities as well as traditional weavings, carvings and other typical local handicrafts and products. Timorese entertainers will include Boy Clemens, who recently recorded a song about the Sunset Fair beach, entitled ‘Ameira Branca’, which he will be performing at the opening event. His album, ‘Forca de Amor’ will also be on sale. The Sunset Fair will allocate a proportion of its stalls to international traders, as it aims to offer a multi-cultural experience to visitors and to extend the creativity of Timorese businesses in developing new products.

As space at the Kristu Rei is limited, businesses wishing to participate in the Sunset Fair will be chosen according to strict criteria designed to promote the project’s core values of Diversity, Creativity and Quality. One of the reasons for the success of the Mindil Markets is that no two stalls can offer exactly the same merchandise or dishes, a rule that will also be applied to the Sunset Fair in Dili. ‘My advice for Sunset Fair participants is to specialize: select your best products, focus on them and do not attempt to sell the whole range of items available in your main business. In this way, the Sunset Fair will serve as a “shop window” to promote your company’s activity and increase day-to-day trade,” Quinias explained. In the case of National traders, precedence will be given to those offering items produced from Timorese materials, using Timorese labour and representing Timorese culture. A limited number of spaces will be allocated to international traders offering products not normally available in your main business. In this way, the Sunset Fair will serve as a “shop window” to promote your company’s activity and increase day-to-day trade.”

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of adventures and activities. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, ‘Now don’t get mad at me, but I can’t remember it. Please tell me what your name is. Her friend glared at her for at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, ‘How soon do you need to know?’

The once blank walls of the Ba Futuru Peace Centre at Rai Kuti have changed. A team of students, staff and volunteers has created a wonderful new landscape depicting scenes of children playing in a peaceful and colourful environment. Joao Camoes, Ba Futuru Director, said that: “Ba Futuru is lucky to have Custodio Asson Moser heading the painting team.” Custodio trained at Arte Moris art school and now works for Ba Futuru as one member of the Community Response Team in Tasi Tolu. Custodio said that the new paintings on the walls symbolize the transformation of the lives of the children who came to Ba Futuru. “They come here to learn how to live peaceful lives, to avoid conflict and to deal with the conflict in our society”, he said. “Sometimes when they come here they have forgotten how to smile. When they leave here they are ready to live happy lives again.”

Ba Futuru thanks the New Zealand Government for supporting the painting through their Head of Mission Fund giving program. They recently provided funds for a variety of infrastructure and maintenance developments at the Peace Center, which has provided more than 1,000 children and youth educational opportunities during the last year. Currently Ba Futuru is looking for additional support for its programs at the Peace Center, which is open to children and youth from across Dili. The center has various kinds of activities including art, dance, skateboarding, sports and traditional dancing, as well as courses on public speaking, job finding skills, human rights, conflict resolution and English and Portuguese language courses. Contact: Sierra James : bafuturu@bafuturu.org; +670 7244022

Local - Beach Fair

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Local - Dive Timor LoroSae

Die Timor LoroSaе ran the first ever PADI Instructor Development Course in East Timor producing and 3 New Staff Instructors. 6 Emergency First Response Instructors and 4 Open Water Scuba Instructors in the first PADI Instructors Examination here.

A A Congratulations to Pedro, Marek, Roberto, Alex, John, Marianne, Chris, Luc and Greg. Matt Bolton the Course Director came all the way from Thailand to teach this course and Robert Scammell the Examiner also. Roberto is the first PADI representative to visit East Timor and it will be a big boost to the tourist industry in the future.

The next course will be running in January 2011.

Local - Ba Futura

"Ba Futuru Peace Center Transformed"

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