

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Imprisoned Children Receive Training

*** To Reduce Negative Sentiments**

Dili, TP

Non Government Organizations *Ba Futuru* and *Pradet* are doing rehabilitation activities through the Transformative Arts and Human Rights Education (TAHRE) Program for children under 18 who have been imprisoned in Becora.

This education, provided through NGO Ba Futuru's TAHRE Program, can help children in Becora Prison to reduce their negative sentiments and also help them to cope with the reality in the prison.

Through this program their perspectives on their lives have changed. They have learned to better support each other and to cooperate, which will help them to find brighter futures when they return home.

The information Timor Post received via an e-mail from NGO Ba Futuru sent yesterday, was that the nine young people in prison on the 30th of May will have finished three months of training held by Ba Futuru about TAHRE program.

According to Ba Futuru, this occasion coincides with International Children's Day, on the 1st of June. This day is celebrated around the world in order to raise awareness for the public about the importance of children's welfare.

On this occasion Dr. José Ramos Horta will hand out certificates and health related items in prison to commemorate the children's hard work and to mark their conviction to promote peace.

Vidal Campus Magno, one of Ba Futuru dynamic staff, has been facilitating activities every Wednesday for three months with Evilio Antonio de Sousa and Luisa Marçal de Jesus from Pradet, to engage these imprisoned young people in constructive activities in order to help them to process their difficult experiences and empower them with new skills and knowledge to lead to a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Ba Futuru reported that after the children received training their trauma, sadness and nervousness was changed and that they became happier. One of the children said, "I feel happier because of these activities," and promised, "When I return home I will implement it in my daily life, and share what I have learnt with my other friends."

Ba Futuru is a local NGO which was established in Timor-Leste in 2004. This year, Ba Futuru's At-risk Children's Project has received support from Concern, the Australian Embassy, Save the Children Sweden, Friends of Idlewild Stables, UNICEF, Silverton Foundation and Lonely Planet.

Ba Futuru has worked with more than 10,000 conflict affected, vulnerable, at-risk children and youth to provide education in order for them to fulfill their potential and regain a sense of confidence in the future. (*/ita)