

Workshop **Timor-Leste**

*Youth's Future, Local Politics & Foreign Relations:
Challenges and Opportunities in Timor-Leste
in the Light of the Upcoming 2012 Elections*

Tuesday
January 24, 2012
6pm - 8pm

*DoktorandInnenzentrum der Universität Wien
Berggasse 7, 1090 Wien (2nd floor)
Workshop Language: English*



*SEAS - Gesellschaft für Südostasienwissenschaften /
Society for South-East Asian Studies - www.seas.at*

- JULIA SCHARINGER is a Magister student at the Department of Political Science and Development Studies. She is currently finalizing her thesis on “Trauma and Peace Building in Timor-Leste” and has conducted field research in February-June 2011 in Timor-Leste.
- MELISSA JOHNSTON is a Doctorate student at the Department of Culture and Anthropology. She is writing her Doctorate thesis on decentralization and local politics in Timor-Leste. She undertook her fieldwork in Timor-Leste in June-September 2011. Besides her Doctorate study, she is currently working at UNIDO as a report writer in Vienna.
- IVAYLO PENTCHEV is a Master of Arts student at the Department of Global History. He is writing his MA thesis on Timor-Leste's foreign relations. He conducted his first field-trip from August-September 2011 and will visit Timor-Leste again this spring to observe the upcoming 2012 election and finalize his MA thesis.
- DR. ALFRED GERSTL is a Political Science researcher and lecturer at the University of Vienna. Before coming to Vienna, he has been lecturing in Australia, Germany and serving as a scientific director of SEAS and editor-in-chief of ASEAS (Austrian Journal of Southeast Asian Studies in Vienna).
- YUKI SEIDLER is a PhD researcher and a lecturer at the University of Vienna. She worked several years in the Southeast Asian region of which she spent two years working in Indonesia and Timor-Leste as a public health worker with the local Red Crosses.

Background and Aim of the Workshop

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is the newest independent country in the South-East Asian region officially becoming independent from Indonesia in May 2002. Although being one of the most disadvantaged countries in the region, Timor-Leste has shown significantly development over the past years.

This was not achieved without problems and challenges. Past elections were frequently accompanied by violence with accompanying casualties and have caused delays in downsizing and the eventual withdrawal of United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

Many see the processes and outcomes of the upcoming Parliamentary and Presidential elections planned in Timor-Leste in May & June 2012 as a test case for the future development of the country as well as one of the benchmark of the efforts that have been put in by governmental, civil, nonprofit, private and foreign actors that have been working in and with the country.

Given this background, three young scholars studying at the University of Vienna will present their researches, views and experiences in Timor-Leste from their respective disciplinary area of studies. A short introductory presentation on Timor-Leste will be given to provide participants with the general political, social, economic and cultural background of the country.

The workshop will be moderated by an expert of South-East Asian studies and invite open and informal discussions among the participants.

Timetable

- 18:00 *Opening Remarks*
DR. ALFRED GERSTL
Department of East Asian Studies and Department of Development Studies / SEAS
- 18:10 *Preliminary Presentation*
YUKI SEIDLER, MA
Department of Development Studies / SEAS
- 18:30 *Trauma and Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste: A Glance at the Grassroots-Level*
JULIA SCHARINGER
Mag. Student, Department of Political Science and Department of Development Studies
- 18:55 *Decentralization and Local Politics in Timor-Leste: How Local Politics are Practiced*
MELISSA JOHNSTON
PhD Candidate, Department of Cultural Anthropology
- 19:20 *Foreign Power Relationship Over the Newly Independent State of Timor-Leste*
IVAYLO PENTCHEV
MA Student, Department of Global History
- 19:45 *Closing Remarks*
DR. ALFRED GERSTL