

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Timor-Leste finds an able partner in Sri Lanka to strengthen its Immunization Programme

**September 25, Dili:** Taking cognizance of immunisation in building a healthier nation,



Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka in collaboration with Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and World Health Organization (WHO) signed a two-year 'twinning agreement'. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 71st Regional Committee Meeting held in Maldives earlier in September. The 'twinning' agreement will help strengthen immunization systems and knowledge-sharing

between the two South-East Asia Region countries. Both the countries stand to gain mutually under the agreement. "This twinning agreement will be extremely beneficial for Timor-Leste and I would like to thank the Ministry of Health (MoH), Sri Lanka for their readiness to share their knowledge and technical skills with my team," said Dr Odete da Silva Viegas, General Director of Health Services Delivery at Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. "We look forward to better understanding all of the components and approaches of Sri Lanka's immunization programme and applying these lessons learned at home," she added. As per the agreement, key officials from the Ministry of Health (MoH) Timor-Leste working in the area of immunization will be able to visit their counterparts in Sri Lanka and learn from their programmatic success stories and how these milestones were achieved. "We are humbled and honoured to share the best practices of our expanded programme on immunization (EPI) programme with the EPI programme of Timor-Leste," said Dr J.M. V. Jayasundra Bandara, Director General of Health Services (a.i.) at MoH, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. "It is a unique opportunity for Sri Lanka to showcase our success regionally and nationally. It will also build capacity of our staff for mentoring and coaching for potential future twinning arrangements of this kind," he added. Sri Lanka's national immunization programme is frequently quoted as one of the strongest performers, not only in the region, but also in the world. The National EPI programme has an excellent record, with extremely low incidence of EPI diseases and high coverage of all EPI vaccines. The importance of immunization is underlined by the fact that it prevents between 2 and 3 million deaths every year and has been protecting children against diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, polio and measles for many years. "The 'twinning' agreement between Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste in partnership with WHO and GAVI, the vaccine alliance, builds a unique knowledge sharing platform which is mutually beneficial. It provides an opportunity for the key health officials of Timor-Leste to learn from Sri Lanka's well established immunization system with sustained high coverage. In doing so, Sri Lanka will be helping a country in the WHO SEA region and also showcase the effectiveness and strength of its immunization programme regionally as well as in the international fora," said Dr Rajesh Pandav, WHO Representative to Timor-Leste.



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## ENTERTAINMENT

**Trump's Renoir painting is not real, Chicago museum says** A US museum says an Impressionist painting which President Donald Trump reportedly claims to own is a fake. In a recent interview, Trump biographer Tim O'Brien said he was once told by the future president that his artwork was an original. But the Chicago Institute of Art says the real painting, Two Sisters (On The Terrace) by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, has hung in its gallery for 80 years. A museum spokeswoman said "we have had this authentic painting" since 1933. "We're proud and grateful to be able to share this exceptional work of art with our 1.5 million visitors each year," Amanda Hicks said in an email to the BBC. The painting was given to the institute in 1933 from a donor who bought it for \$100,000 (£76,000). The donor acquired it from an art dealer who purchased it directly from the French Impressionist painter in 1881, she added. But Mr O'Brien said during a recent interview with Vanity Fair's Hive podcast that Mr Trump has repeatedly claimed to him that his version of the painting was authentic. During a flight on Mr Trump's private jet while he was writing his 2005 book, TrumpNation: The Art of Being The Donald, Mr O'Brien said he spotted the painting and asked about it. "You know, that's an original Renoir," the author said Mr Trump had told him, adding that the property tycoon repeated the claim the following day. "Donald, it's not," he recalled telling Trump. "I grew up in Chicago, that Renoir is called Two Sisters on the Terrace, and it's hanging on a wall at the Art Institute of Chicago. **That's not an original.**" The artwork was later apparently moved to Trump Tower, the author said, noting that it was visible in the background of a CBS 60 Minutes interview that Mr Trump gave shortly after the presidential election. "I'm sure he's still telling people who come into the apartment, 'It's an original, it's an original,'" Mr O'Brien said on the podcast. Mr Trump sued Mr O'Brien for \$5bn because the author wrote in TrumpNation that rather than being a billionaire, his net worth was actually as low as \$150m. The defamation lawsuit was dismissed. *BBC*

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### Timor-Leste KIDS Tennis



Leonia Clementina da Costa Soares (Atina) is 14 years old and a talented, young tennis player. She is now the proud recipient of a \$500 coaching scholarship (donated by Michelle Whalen and Rosa Hamill) that will see her have 6 months coaching from coach Ricardo Amaral and also from Armindo da Costa, responsible for National Tennis Development and National Co-ordinator of Timor-Leste Kids' Tennis. Recently Sarah Johnston, a former Australian VIDA volunteer and Advisor to



Timor-Leste Kids' Tennis (a program of FETIL, the national tennis body) returned to Timor-Leste for a visit bringing donations of balls, grips and a racquet. "As always it was great to see the girls out on the court as well as the boys. I was so impressed with Atina's motivation and commitment" Sarah said. "She came to the court every morning, on time, to practice and play and took great delight in beating me and showing her skill. It reminded me of Kerry Galhos at the same age". Tennis continues to develop in Timor-Leste thanks to the hard work of many. FETIL is now a member of the Asian Tennis Federation and the next step is ITF membership. *BBC*



Information provided by: Sarah Johnston (Advisor Timor - Leste Kids' Tennis)

### UNESCO facilitates dialogue on implementation of water goals in Timor-Leste



Dili: UNESCO is collaborating closely with WHO and ADB to enable the government of Timor-Leste, to achieve water related targets of Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan and SDG 6. To assist the implementation of water goals, two-days

meeting titled "National Dialogue On Water Security: Implementing Water Goals in Timor-Leste" was organized in Dili. Bringing together international experts, government counterparts, and development partners to identify priorities and prepare project proposals to strengthen the management of Timor-Leste's freshwater resources and to reduce negative impacts on human well-being and the natural environment. International experts along with local stakeholders worked together to formulate interventions in support of government efforts to improve access to safe drinking water, with particular focus on the most underprivileged groups in Timor-Leste. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in his welcome remarks mentioned the importance of collaboration between international development agencies & partners, government ministries and other stakeholders. He stressed the importance of sound water planning to gain sustainable solutions in order to achieve SDG6 and solving Timor-Leste's water issues. Dr. Sudath Peiris delivered remarks on behalf of Dr. Rajesh Pandave, the Representative of WHO for Timor-Leste. He said that collaboration between various stakeholders is the key to achieving access to safe drinking water and sanitation in Timor-Leste. Mr. Paolo Spantigati, Country Director, Timor-Leste Resident Mission in his remarks shared some of the successful water sector projects with the participants and emphasized the importance of technical knowledge, transparency and bring sustainable financial solutions to ensure continuous stream of finance to implement projects to achieve water related targets. Mr. Eugenio Lemos delivered remarks on behalf of Office In-charge of Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO, and highlighted the importance of investment in water infrastructure as well as education on climate change and water issues and the need to learn from global examples on how to manage water related challenges and achieve clean water and sanitation in Timor-Leste. Mr. Joao Carlos, National Director of Environment was representing H.E. Renato Monteiro da Cruz Guterres, Vice Minister for Development and Public Works. In his welcome remarks he extended his gratitude to UNESCO for initiating this dialogue to underline the necessity of implementing water related goals in Timor-Leste. The two day national dialogue is being attended by representatives from national and international partner organizations such as Ministry of Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, UNESCO, WHO, ADB, World Vision, JICA, TGDS and international experts from Australia, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal and Pakistan; their expertise will further foster increased understanding of the SDG6 and related targets among key actors in Timor-Leste's water sector by strengthening professional networking and promoting active debate on how to address water-related goals and targets through cross-sectoral integration.

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#### From the "TRIVIA BOOK"

A spider's web is made of two types of silk, one sticky and the other not. The spider begins the web with the non-sticky silk and forms the 'spokes'. After the frame is constructed and secure, the spider goes back with the sticky silk and completes the web design we are so familiar with, connecting spoke to spoke. They will also add rows connecting the spokes to allow them access for web maintenance. Spend time watching a spider and you will see that they painstakingly avoid the sticky silk and walk on the spokes. Should the spider be startled and walk on the sticky silk it will stick to the spider the same as it would to anything else. Spiders recycle their webbing, so a spider that gets stuck in its own web may eat its way out.