



# Progress and Challenge of the Defense Co-operation of Timor Leste

Mahein's Voice No 59, 27 September 2013



XIV REUNIÃO DOS MINISTROS DA DEFESA NACIONAL DA CPLP  
MAPUTO, 21 A 22 DE MAIO DE 2013



This Report is Realized Because funded by the UNDP Timor-Leste, Finland Embassy in Jakarta and American People Through USAID



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## I. Introduction

After the transformation of FALINTIL to F-FDTL, the army forces of Timor-Leste oriented itself according to the world globalization progress. As a small country and Timor-Leste has just got its independence for more than ten years still lack of human resource, material and technology for the development of the F-FDTL.

To get professional military, the government and state have obligation to increase the military capacity building in human resource development area in order to supply various educations, technical military training and other professional courses.<sup>1</sup> As well as other necessarily of the military equipments supported by other countries through the military co-operation ties.<sup>2</sup>

The Timor-Leste's defense cooperation thus far was to intensify the cooperation with the neighbour countries such as Australia and Indonesia and other country in the ASEAN region, the economic potential countries including the block communities speaking Portuguese Language or CPLP as well as other countries in the Asia-pacific region.

Timo-Leste is very active in such co-operation ties and will continue to strengthen the trainings that necessarily for the F-FDTL and through the Bilateral relation support to continue promoting the institution of the F-FDTL in he International communities level. Hence, need to recognize that the ongoing defense co-operation is on the progress and defiance processes.

## II. Metodology

This research report is to analyze over the progress and challenge of the defense co-operation of Timor-Leste's which has conducted by the government of Timor-Leste. The adopted Metodology on this research is that the FM (Fundasaun Mahein) held discussion with the research team by analyzing for the development process of the defense institution. What is becoming the progress and defiance in the trap of the defense co-oration of Timor-Leste, the adopted method is called the Security Sector Discussion (SSD).

During the research the FM team interviewed a superior official of the F-FDTL's institution, a secretary state of defense and representative of the civil societies organization. After the ongoing process, the analyses continue confirming with the defense's document which is accessed by FM and with its publication on the national media from the defense institution and military's.

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<sup>1</sup> DISIS. (June 2012). Defense Co-operation of Timor Leste - Australia In terms of *FOREIGN MILITARY AID*.<http://www.disis-tl.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/DRAF-WORKING-PAPER-GRUPO-DEFEZA-idi.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Defense Co-operation Between Timor Leste and Brasil. Journal of Defense.p3.

### III. Block Communities Speak Portuguese Language or CPLP

CPLP block composed of Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mocambique, São Tome e Principe, Cabo-Verde, Timor-Leste and Guine-Bissau. Timor-Leste is very active, practically had shown inside the countries members of CPLP, in a very well known training called “Felino Exercise” traing the CPLP’s forces with its preparation with the goal to get more experience in order to capacitate the F-FDTL in a conjoint combination training and to prepare the F-FDTL to involve in peace operation if the United Nation needs Timor-Leste’s presence.<sup>3</sup>

This training composed of twenty people from the F-FDTL which is realized in Cabo-Ledo Angola. Materials of the training are: *Choque*; it is used on how to act against demonstration did by youths. *Escolto Entidade*: is how to secure or safe any autorithies’ life. *Eskolta Comboio*: is how to secure with the transport and related with the humanitarian assistance.<sup>4</sup> Through this block communities Timor-Leste will continue to intensify defense co-orporation with the country members of CPLP’s such as Portugal and Braziil that focused on some important sectors such as training for human resource as well as training for the institution’’s.<sup>5</sup>

The government of Portugal has provided training thus far for the F-FDTL over the basic and advance militaries.<sup>6</sup> Providing course for the superior officers level, captain including General course.<sup>7</sup> Supporting advisers for the institution of the F-FDTL, Portuguese Language course, facilitating training and recruiting members of the F-FDTL.<sup>8</sup> Course over the military instructor to the members of F-FDTL,<sup>9</sup> and facilitating the fuzillers marine course for the second step to 32 members in Metinaro.<sup>10</sup>

Portugal continue supporting and promoting the F-FDTL in the International communities level. as shows the presence of the F-FDTL in peace operation under the United Nation’s mandate.

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<sup>3</sup> Carceres. (18-19 August 2012). A Conjoint Training Between Forces from CPLP Countries in Angola Called “FELINO EXERCISE” Bulletin of the F-FDTL. Vol.286.p20-21.

<sup>4</sup> Carceres. (18-19 August 2012). A Conjoint Training Between Forces from CPLP Countries in Angola Called “FELINO EXERCISE” Bulletin of the F-FDTL. Vol.286.p20-21.

<sup>5</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Defense Co-operation Between Timor Leste and Brasil. Journal of Defense.p3.

<sup>6</sup> Hanjam, Shinta. Journalist. (23 August 2012). Development Plan of the F-FDTL Forces to Reach the Plan 2020. TVTL, Programa Sala de Redação

<sup>7</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Protugal Ready to welcome F-FDTL to Participate in Peace PKO. Buletin of National Defense.p27.

<sup>8</sup> Gonçalves, Martinho. National Director for the Stratgic Plan and International politic (27 March 2013). Private Interview.

<sup>9</sup> Salsinha, Oscar. (09 November 2012). Portugal-F-FDTL Strengthen the Military Co-operation. Suara Timor Lorosa’e Newspaper.

<sup>10</sup> Officiais FALINTIL-FDTL Hamutuk 24 Pesoa Tuir Kursu Promosaun Kapitaun. (2012, Agosto 18-19).Buletin das F-FDTL.p6.

Practically the F-FDTL together with the Army Forces contingent of Portugal assigned a peace maintenance mission in Lebanon.<sup>11</sup>

On the other side, Brazil is a different continent in the block communities speaking Portuguese as the umbrella of the communities of CPLP signed a technical agreement in 2012 with Timor-Leste that focused on training for the Military Police (MP). In 2010 the government of Timor-Leste and the Republic Federal Government of Brazil signed a defense co-operation agreement as well.<sup>12</sup> Such agreement was the main agreement as the umbrella for the technical co-operation such as training for the Military Police, Brazil supports to establish port of the F-FDTL in the future.<sup>13</sup>

On the agreement discussed as well about the mutual visting of the High-level delegation and meeting of the defense instituion representative, Brazil supports the military instructors, cultural event and the military sport as well as the defense's material possessed the important lesson for the F-FDTL.<sup>14</sup> On that the meeting SED Julio Tomas Pinto said Brazil is a big nation part of Latin America owned the modern air forces technology, so urged Brazil's assistances to establish port component for the F-FDTL in the future so Timor-Leste could control and defend port in Timor-Leste.<sup>15</sup>

It is clear that Air component is an integrate component of the army force but Timor-Leste needs to learn experience of the naval component's where recently has purchased ships from China with unfavourable condition in the operation. Port for the naval component still in problem including the operation and maintenance of the ships.

Such concerns also raised by the Major General of the F-FDTL Lere Anan Timur, he said the government should create better condition in order to establish the air component, because the government is preparing human resource, studying for pilots as well as technique for maintenances.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (06 August 2012). Politic of the Ministry Defense and Security Period of 2007 – 2012. Mahein's Voice No. 02.pdf.

<sup>12</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (18 April 2012). Dreams and Reality for the development and Professionalism of Forces FALINTIL-F-FDTL. Mahein's Voice No.18.pdf.

<sup>13</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (18 April 2012). Dreams and Reality for the development and Professionalism of Forces FALINTIL-F-FDTL. Mahein's Voice No.18.pdf.

<sup>14</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Defense Co-operation Between Timor Leste and Brasil. Journal of Defense.p4-5

<sup>15</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Defense Co-operation Between Timor Leste and Brasil. Journal of Defense.p4-5

<sup>16</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Defense Co-operation Between Timor Leste and Brasil. Journal of Defense.p4-5

Even the defense co-operation between Timor-Leste and block nations of CPLP have shown the progress but the trainings area that the governments from the CPLP block supplied thus far, particularly Portugal and Brazil through the co-operation thus far that was problem with Portuguese language when members of the F-FDTL participated in any military trainings whether inside the country or abroad.<sup>17</sup> Which is becoming big concerns for the leaders of the F-FDTL institution because it has become an obstacle for the development process of the defense insitution.<sup>18</sup>

#### **IV. Nations in the ASEAN Region and the Moment that Timor-Leste Prepare to Join ASEAN**

Regarding the Timor-Leste's adhesion to ASEAN, the Secretary State of Defense-SED Julio Tomas Pinto had presented in 2010 that according to the geo-politic and geo-strategy, ASEAN is a way for Timor-Leste to get security stability and the contribution of Timor-Leste for the regional security issue. In the economy context, Timor-Leste adhesion to ASEAN will get big benefit in the future and recently Timor-Leste as a member of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).<sup>19</sup>

Interest strategic of the Timor-Leste for ASEAN's region, Timor-Leste is very active in the regional forums of ASEAN such as ARF. And continue to fortify good relation with those members countries of ASEAN in some important sectors, Particularlry, defense co-operation sector's.<sup>20</sup> As a part of the government efforts to fortify the defense institution of Timor-Leste which have been planned on the Development Strategic Plan Forces of 2001-2007.<sup>21</sup>

The defense co-operation relation between Timor-Leste and members of ASEAN countries thus far have got well progress of the human resource inside the instituion of the F-FDTL.<sup>22</sup> Example; the Indonesian government facilitated training for the FALINTIL-F-FDTL over marine and military course for the superior officers in LEMHANAS Jakarta, within 2009 to 2011.<sup>23</sup> As well as fortifying the collective security relation to combat non-conventional threatens such as

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<sup>17</sup> Hanjam, Shinta. Journalist. (23 August 2012). Development Plan of the F-FDTL Forces to Reach the Plan 2020. TVTL, Programa Sala de Redação

<sup>18</sup> Paixão Filomeno. (12 September 2013). Vice Chief of Major FALINTIL-FDTL. Private Interview.

<sup>19</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Defense Co-operation Between Timor Leste and Brasil. Establishes Air Components. Journal of National Defense.p4

<sup>20</sup> RDTL. (December 2010-June 2011). Defense Co-operation Between Timor Leste and Brasil. Establishes Air Components. Journal of National Defense.p4

<sup>21</sup> Maia Goncalves, Martinho. (12 September 2013). National Direction for Strategic Planning and International Policy (NDSPIP). Private Interview.

<sup>22</sup> Maia Goncalves, Martinho. (12 September 2013). National Direction for Strategic Planning and International Policy (NDSPIP). Private Interview.

<sup>23</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (06 August 2012). Politic of the Ministry Defense and Security Period of 2007 – 2012. Mahein's Voice No. 02.pdf.

terrorist, spy, illegal trafficking and pirates. Including the maritime security and the coordination of the F-FDTL and TNI to control the the border land zone.<sup>24</sup>

And the Indonesia's commitment is to lend credit two patrol ships for Timor-Leste to keep security in the maritime area of Timor-Leste.<sup>25</sup> Including tank (panser) which is produced by PT.PINDAD Indonesia.<sup>26</sup> In 2012, the government of Indonesia had supported military equipments (6 canions) to the instituion of F-FDTL.<sup>27</sup> Both countries will sign the military technical co-orperation agreement in a short time as the continuation meeting between leaders of the defense institutions leaders of both nations before.<sup>28</sup>

On the other side, Philipine and Malaysia also capacitating human resource of the defense institution of Timor-Leste. The government of philipine provided scholarship to ten members of the F-FDTL to attend courses such as pilots for engineering, pilots for electronic engineering and pilot for mechanical engineering and others.<sup>29</sup> And government of Malaysia will support military technic training for the members of the F-FDTL in the future.<sup>30</sup> Malaysia supported as well the the military equipments (transports) to the defense institution.<sup>31</sup> On the other side, Singapore supported the medical course to members of the F-FDTL in order to fortify activities of the Civil Military Co-operation in the future.<sup>32</sup>

In terms of defense co-orperation between Timor-Leste with nations in ASEAN region have got well progress however, it has not been drafted on the strategic plan to define clearly what

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<sup>24</sup> The government Portal. (20 June 2010). Strengthening the Military Co-operation of Timor-Leste and Indonesia: <http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?p=3281&n=1&lang=tp>

<sup>25</sup> Linawati, Mevi. (22 March 2011). Timor Leste Purchases the Military equipments from Indonesia. Media online inilak.com.

<http://artis.inilah.com/read/detail/1348162/URLTEENAGE#.UYsTuUrtWQE>

<sup>26</sup> Mulia, Prima. (02 September 2012). Timor Leste Lend Panser From Pindad. Media tempo.com.

<http://www.tempo.co/read/news/2012/09/02/093426935/Timor-Leste-Pesan-Panser-dari-Pindad>

<sup>27</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (06 August 2012). Politic of the Ministry Defense and Security Period of 2007 – 2012. Mahein's Voice No. 02.p13.

<sup>28</sup> Da Costa, Joao. (19 September 2013). Major General Lere strengthen the Military Cooperation relation with New Zealand. Independente Newspaper.

<sup>29</sup> PI-F-FDTL. (December 2010 – June 2011). F-FDTL will have Pilot of Airplane. National Defense Newspaper.

<sup>30</sup> Car & adp. (Dec 2010-June 2011) SSD Continue to Create the Military Co-operation with Malaysia. Journal of National defense. p13.

<sup>31</sup> Tomas Pinto, Julio. (2010). DEVELOPMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE DEFENSE SECTOR : Defiance and Obstacles in the

Future.[http://www.presidencia.tl/por/militar/web/2010docm3/Julio%20Tomis%20Pinto%20TETU M.pdf](http://www.presidencia.tl/por/militar/web/2010docm3/Julio%20Tomis%20Pinto%20TETU%20M.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Paixão Filomeno. (12 September 2013). Vice Chief of Major FALINTIL-FDTL. Private Interview.

training types or the military exercises that Timor-Leste will adopt in the ASEAN region. What management defense types that Timor-Leste would be applied in ASEAN, when Timor-Leste join to ASEAN.<sup>33</sup> Other case is that the government of Timor-Leste has not yet presented the MoU over the defense co-operation with Indonesia to the National Parliament for further approving.<sup>34</sup>

But the defense co-operation between Timor-Leste and some other country members of ASEAN have not signed yet the MoU. Only the agreement between the military institution.<sup>35</sup> It becomes preoccupation for the leaders of the F-FDTL and urges the government to consider for the legal procedure of the defense co-operation of Timor-Leste with the foreign countries.<sup>36</sup> because the legal case (MoU) will define the process of the co-operation and will guaranty whatever activities which will be conducted between Timor-Leste and other countries in the defense co-operation area.<sup>37</sup>

The government of Timor-Leste needs to develop MoU which have been signed between countries in ASEAN region in order to orient the military training in the high-level, such as course over the strategy defense's. And needs to review the substantial co-operation of Timor-Leste with countries in ASEAN region in order to design based on the strategic plan of the defense countries progress in the ASEAN region.<sup>38</sup>

Even right now the government is efforting to bring Timor-Leste to be ASEAN members but the preparation of the Timor-Leste defense sector as an important factor for determination of Timor-Leste to join members of ASEAN still weak.<sup>39</sup> Therefore, Timor-Leste needs a political plan on how to figure out the military strategy according to the necessity of ASEAN through the BILATERAL relation hich have been established so far.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

<sup>34</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (06 August 2012). Politic of the Ministry Defense and Security Period of 2007 – 2012. Mahein's Voice No. 02.p14

<sup>35</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

<sup>36</sup> Paixão Filomeno. (12 September 2013). Vice Chief of Major FALINTIL-FDTL. Private Interview

<sup>37</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

<sup>38</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

<sup>39</sup> Sstill Weak Signify has not prepared well and need to Improve in Terms of Human Resource, Investment for the Infrustructure and Facilities which will support to the Army forces.

<sup>40</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.



Because based on the ASEAN security policy has defined over the collective security where Timor-Leste needs a concept that could correspond to the defense strategy which has been defined on the ASEAN's concept. So far Timor-Leste conducted lots exercises with types of CPLP where its orientation has away of the defense concept in the ASEAN region.<sup>41</sup> The fact that the institution of F-FDTL itself has not prepared well yet to compete with the military from the members of ASEAN countries which are already in advance.<sup>42</sup> According to Fundasaun Mahein that it was an homework for the current government so in the future need to define well the concept of the defense co-orporation with countries in ASEAN region in order to self-adapt and could respond to the global threatens in the ASEAN region.

#### **V. Nations in the Pacific Asia Region and Timor-Leste's Responsibility to Respond Threatens in the Pacific Asia Region**

To respond the global threatens which is taking place in this era globalization, awake all nations in the world to strengthen the bilateral relation in some important sectors, Particularly defense sector's. As a new nation, Timor-Leste continue to strentheng the relation with nations in the ASEAN region and Pacific Asia.<sup>43</sup>

On the concept of the security and defense regional policies between South Asiatic and Pacific Asia is to orient based on the geo-strategy of Timor-Leste to be a strategy place for the big countries such as America and others in Pacific Asia such as China and Australia to establish and instal the military base in the future in order to control threatens from non-conventional and conventional, especially threatens of the maritime resource.<sup>44</sup>

By seeing from the security dynamic in the Pacific Asia to East Asia would give threaten to security in the South Asiatic region and Timor-Leste in the future. if so, Timor-Leste will make a diplomacy mechanism with countries in Pacific Asia such as China, America, Australia and other countries in order to guarentee security and stability in the teritory of Timor-Leste.<sup>45</sup> It is a part of the government politic to develop institution of the F-FDTL and establishing an ally strongly and to keep responsible for the global threaten in the Pacific Asia region.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

<sup>42</sup> Paixão Filomeno. (12 September 2013). Vice Chief of Major FALINTIL-FDTL. Private Interview

<sup>43</sup> Silveira Gregorio, Julio. (12 July 2012). Constellation Politic of Azia-Pacific of the Security Defense South Azia; Perspective of Timor-Leste. DISIS Report.

<sup>44</sup> Silveira Gregorio, Julio. (12 July 2012). Constellation Politic of Azia-Pacific of the Security Defense South Azia; Perspective of Timor-Leste. DISIS Report.

<sup>45</sup> Silveira Gregorio, Julio. (12 July 2012). Constellation Politic of Azia-Pacific of the Security Defense South Azia; Perspective of Timor-Leste. DISIS Report.

<sup>46</sup> Maia Goncalves, Martinho. (12 September 2013). National Direction for Strategic Planning and International Policy (NDSPIP). Private Interview.

Even though, Timor-Leste still adopts the soft co-operation concept which is focused on human resource capacity building. For example, Australia through the Defence Co-operation Program (DCP), provided military training to the F-FDTL, engineering course, English, communication, logistic and administration, leadership and military discipline trainings, medical training, support the military advisers and financial at the ministerial level and establish basic infrastructure to the F-FDTL.<sup>47</sup> From the mentioned co-operations have given positive contribution for the development of the F-FDTL institution in the human resource area.<sup>48</sup>

Hence, the government needs to review the substance of the defense co-operation with Australia in formation and training aspects. According to the director of DISIS Antonio Freitas that the implementation of DCP between Timor-Leste and Australia has no significant benefit for the development of the F-FDTL institution. Because DCP is only provide training for members of the F-FDTL and no high level training that more focus on the military strategic advance in order to respond the non-conventional threatens which are growing in the Pacific Asia region.<sup>49</sup>

Other case is about the defense co-operation between Australia and Timor-Leste that have not formally signed any MoU, only an agreement between the defense institutions of Australia and the F-FDTL.<sup>50</sup> It happened because there was an indication of the MoU concept which is not suitable with government policy of Timor-Leste.<sup>51</sup> However, such matter became a serious case for the leaders of the F-FDTL institution, therefore ask the government to accelerate the legal procedure over the defense co-operation with nations in ASEAN region as well as in Pacific Asia.<sup>52</sup>

The United State of America (USA) is the “super power” nation in the world also supports the development of the defense institution of Timor-Leste started signed an agreement on October 2002 called *Status of Forces Agreement*-SOFA. A progress of the SOFA agreement was that the USA had supplied marine training to members of the F-FDTL in 2009.<sup>53</sup> And the

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<sup>47</sup> Institute For Security And Sustainability. (2013). Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) Timor-Leste: <http://nautilus.org/publications/books/australian-forces-abroad/east-timor/defence-cooperation-program-dcp-timor-leste/#axzz2NqfXTPL3>

<sup>48</sup> Paixão Filomeno. (12 September 2013). Vice Chief of Major FALINTIL-FDTL. Private Interview

<sup>49</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview

<sup>50</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (06 August 2012). Politic of the Ministry Defense and Security Period of 2007 – 2012. Mahein's Voice No. 02.p14

<sup>51</sup> Maia Goncalves, Martinho. (12 September 2013). National Direction for Strategic Planning and International Policy (NDSPIP). Private Interview.

<sup>52</sup> Paixão Filomeno. (12 September 2013). Vice Chief of Major FALINTIL-FDTL. Private Interview

<sup>53</sup> Tomas Pinto, Julio. (11 April 2013). *Joint Exercise of FALINTIL-FDTL and U.S. MARINE*: <http://juliotomas Pinto.com/publication/117-joint-exercise-falintil-fdtl-and-us-marine.html>

CROCODILE exercise based on the discussion between the F-FDTL institution and the Pacific Command.<sup>54</sup> Supporting weapons to the institution of F-FDTL in 2001.<sup>55</sup>

Realizing the CARAT exercise (Co-operation Afloat Readiness and Training) between naval component of the F-FDTL and USA.<sup>56</sup> In 2012 held a Cobra exercise composed of USA naval and F-FDTL in Tasi-Tolu and Maliana.<sup>57</sup> And in 2013 held the third (Cobra) exercise in welaluhu village, Faturberliu sub-district of Manufahi district which was involved by members of the F-FDTL compost of land component, naval component, service support component, military police and others.<sup>58</sup>

Even the defense co-orporation between Timor-Leste and United Nation of America at present is going well but the government need to review the SOFA agreement so it could really well-define over the operational and the military training processes.<sup>59</sup> Should be clear over the types of the exercise and training based on the priority areas, using how many equipment (weapon) and how was of the types so it could be identic as similar as the military performance.<sup>60</sup>

Because regarding the conjoint training between the naval force of America and the F-FDTL in the past year which was held in Manatuto made the communities panicked because of using the modern equipment. And should define clearly how is the contribution of Timor-Leste with the USA by responding the global threatens if occuring in the Pacific Asia region.<sup>61</sup>

On the other side, China is a nation with a big influence in the Pacific Asia region in terms of economy, defense and security sectors which is become target for Timor-Leste in the defense

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<sup>54</sup> RDTL. (Decembe 2010-June 2011). Crocodile Exercise, Learn to Go Ahead. Journal of Defense. p6.

<sup>55</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (06 August 2012). Politic of the Ministry Defense and Security Period of 2007 – 2012. Mahein's Voice No. 02.p13

<sup>56</sup> Official Website of the United States Navy. (25 January 2013). U.S and Timor-Leste Naval Forces Build Maritime Partnerships:  
[http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=71640](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=71640)

<sup>57</sup> Tomas Pinto, Julio. (11 April 2013). Joint Exercise of FALINTIL-FDTL and U.S. MARINE:  
<http://juliotomaspinto.com/publication/117-joint-exercise-falintil-fdtl-and-us-marine.html>

<sup>58</sup> The government Portal. (20 June 2010). Strengthening the Military Co-operation of Timor-Leste and Indonesia: <http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?p=3281&n=1&lang=tp>

<sup>59</sup> Paixão Filomeno. (12 September 2013). Vice Chief of Major FALINTIL-FDTL. Private Intervie

<sup>60</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

<sup>61</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

co-operation.<sup>62</sup> In terms of the defense co-operation, the government of Timor-Leste and China signed an agreement over the purchasing of the two patrol ships used by the naval component for their activities in Timor Sea. And traing members of the F-FDTL in technical training over the operating for the ship.<sup>63</sup> Offering electricity course and machines to naval fusileers in China.<sup>64</sup>

Jepan is an advance country in terms of security and defense sectors in the Pacific Asia also supports the government policy agenda of Timor-Leste in terms of defense co-orporation. The government of Jepan gave the oppotunity to four members of the F-FDTL to continue their study over military at the National Defense Academic of Japan.<sup>65</sup> Government of Jepan through its embassy in Timor-Leste had signed an agreement with the government of Timor-Leste to provide training to F-FDTL over natural disaster and auto-mechanics course.<sup>66</sup>

And the South Korean government had supported the military equipment thus far. In 2011, the South Korean offered three steamships to the F-FDTL, particularly to the Naval component to facilitate the security operation for the richness in the Timor-Sea.<sup>67</sup> Offering training to 30 members of the F-FDTL over navigation's.<sup>68</sup>

The government of New Zealand continue capacitating human resource of the F-FDTL instituion by offering the scholarship to members of the F-FDTL to study in some universities in New Zealand. Supporting training over the military technics over weapons management, bullets, logistic and others.<sup>69</sup> Timor-Leste also strengthen the defense co-orporation with Israel government in Navigation part because Israelist Naval cmponent is better in the world.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Parada, Josefa. (19 June 2011). Cooperation of TL–China, Strengthening Economy and Education Areas. Liberate the People.<http://procnrt.blogspot.com/2011/06/koperasaun-tlcina-hametin-area-ekonomia.html>

<sup>63</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (18 April 2012). Dreams and Reality for the development and Professionalism of Forces FALINTIL-F-FDTL. Mahein's Voice No.18.pdf.

<sup>64</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (06 August 2012). Politic of the Ministry Defense and Security Period of 2007 – 2012. Mahein's Voice No. 02

<sup>65</sup> RDTL. (10 May 2010). Jepan Strengthen the Co-operation in Defense Area: <http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?p=2912&lang=tp>

<sup>66</sup> Dgx. (17 September 2013). TL-Jepan Signed a Training Agreement to the F-FDTL. Diariu Nasional Newspaper.

<sup>67</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (18 April 2012). Dreams and Reality for the development and Professionalism of Forces FALINTIL-F-FDTL. Mahein's Voice No.18.pdf.

<sup>68</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (21 October 2011). Maritime Security of Timor-Leste is in Fragility Situation. Mahein's Voice No. 23.pdf.

<sup>69</sup> Fundasaun Mahein. (21 October 2011). Maritime Security of Timor-Leste is in Fragility Situation. Mahein's Voice No. 23.pdf.

<sup>70</sup> Presidential Archive Timor-Leste (East Timor). (9 February 2012). The Republic President Welcomed Member of Israelist Marine Forces. :<http://presidenttimorleste.tl/?p=4388>

Efforts of the government Timor-Leste to develop the institution of the F-FDTL through the defense co-operation with nations in the Pacific Asia region is the fundamental commitment which is based on the force's strategic development plan.<sup>71</sup> Hence, some important cases which are becoming a challenge is hard to synchronize lesson which is learned by the members of F-FDTL from the above mentioned countries to implement inside the institution.<sup>72</sup>

However, the government of Timor-Leste itself has not signed yet the MoU over the defense co-operation with nations in ASEAN and the Pacific Asia region. More bad is that the defense co-operation which has made thus far by the government was not include on the high-level by learning the strategy, it has defiance capability of the F-FDTL members to understand the global threatens in the Pacific Asia region.<sup>73</sup> According to Fundasaun Mahein that to establish a strong defense is not only the capabilities of the modern equipments but needs capability of the military education as well.

## **VI. Conclusion**

After Timor-Leste Independent and transforming FALINTIL to F-FDTL, the army forces of Timor-Leste oriented itself according to the transformation of the global progress in the world. Timor-Leste as a small country with its defense institution which still lack of various things in human resource area, material and technology, government of Timor-Leste is strengthening the relation with the foreign countries to develop the institution of F-FDTL,

More than ten years, the government made various efforts to strengthen good relation with the all countries in the ASEAN region, and the Pacific Asia region including CPLP block to develop the defense institution of Timor-Leste. However, need to recognize that the defense co-operation between Timor-Leste and other countries made thus far still on the process between progress and challenge. The defense co-operation between Timor-Leste and many other countries have not signed yet MoU from the government in order to strengthen strongly such co-operation itself, there is only an agreement between the defense institutions.

## **VII. Recommendations**

1. Recommends to the government to continue strengthen the bilateral co-operation with the all countries in the ASEAN region, and the Pacific Asia and nations block of CPLP to

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<sup>71</sup> Maia Goncalves, Martinho. (12 September 2013). National Direction for Strategic Planning and International Policy (NDSP/IP). Private Interview.

<sup>72</sup> Hanjam, Shinta. Journalist. (23 August 2012). Development Plan of the F-FDTL Forces to Reach the Plan 2020. TVTL, Programa Sala de Redaçã

<sup>73</sup> Freitas, Antonio. (29 July 2013). Director of Dili Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Private Interview.

develop institution of the F-FDTL. the government needs to well-define the concept of the political training which is in progress to the F-FDTL in order to respond the global threatens in the ASEAN region and the Pacific Asia.

2. Recommends to the government to make revision for the SOFA agreement between Timor-Leste and United State of America including the MoU which has been signed by the National Parliament for approving.
3. Recommends to the government to make improvement from the *soft co-operation* to *hard co--operation* which will focus on the military strategy so the F-FDTL would have enough capacity military with countries in the ASEAN region and the Pacific Asia.

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