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Timor-Leste

The History and Development of Asia's Newest Nation

By Abraham Joseph and Takako Hamaguchi

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"This book is a rich source of lessons for many small nations around the world struggling to harness their natural resources for the improvement of their people. It is not just that Timor-Leste is a new nation; it is even more important that it is a smart nation judging from the innovations it has put in its constitutions and the institutions that it has created to help advance the welfare of its people. This book is a powerful testimony of how a new nation can rise from tragedy to triumph by adopting smart development policies and institutions."

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"The authors have examined, with the trained and clinical eyes of fine economists, the entire fabric of Timor-Leste's socio economic structure, from natural resource investment to climate change, from food and agriculture to the empowerment of the vulnerable, and to the implementation of the millennium development goals. There is a wealth of statistics, garnered with circumspection and presented with clarity, which support the authors' overall contention of a devastated country in the process of recovery, and a realistic assessment of assets, both current and potential, particularly in respect of oil and gas in the Timor Sea."

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"This book is a must read for anyone interested in understanding Timor-Leste and will be in years to come the benchmark of future studies on the country."

— **Victor Savage, National University of Singapore**

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Abraham Joseph has held various senior-level positions at the United Nations, including the head of the Office of Socioeconomic Affairs in the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste. He also served as a senior advisor to Timor-Leste's foreign minister.

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