



Connecting Communities  
Strengthening Democracy

## 2012 Timor-Leste Elections: implications, opportunities and challenges

**UPDATE: We are delighted to announce that attending our LEF will be His Excellency Snr Abel Guterres, Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia. Also participating in the LEF will be Rae Kingsbury (nee Perry), Convenor Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network Facilitators who will speak to us about the Volunteer Observer Missions in 2012.**

As Timor-Leste faces its third round of democratic elections since it formally achieved independence in 2002, our first LEF for the year brings a range of speakers together to reflect on the implications for our nearest neighbour and Australians. Join experts and observers to explore:

- ✓ Who's who in the Timor-Leste Elections
- ✓ Long-term dynamics and issues likely to face any new President, the Government and people
- ✓ Implications for the strategic relationship with Australia
- ✓ How Australian friendship relationships are influencing wellbeing in local communities

### Speakers include:



**Dr Clinton Fernandes** is Associate Professor of Strategic Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Australian Defence Force Academy campus of the University of New South Wales. His principal research area is International Relations and Strategy. He has taught courses on The Role of Modern Intelligence, Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia, Contemporary Strategy, and Modern Political Ideologies. Dr Fernandes was consulting historian on the film *Balibo*, and he has published widely on Australian foreign policy and South East Asian politics. He has assisted the Australian Federal Police's war crimes section. His most recent publication is *The Independence of East Timor* (Sussex Academic Press, 2011). His online Companion to East Timor is at [http://hass.unsw.adfa.edu.au/timor\\_companion/](http://hass.unsw.adfa.edu.au/timor_companion/)



**Mayor Rachel Powning** recently visited Timor-Leste and met with President Jose Ramos Horta and the Minister responsible for friendships with Australian local governments Snr Archangelo Leite to discuss how the City of Port Phillip can assist Suai/Covalima in its formation of its first municipal government, following the national elections planned for 2012. Cr Powning sits on Port Phillip's Suai Community Task Force, and is committed to taking action on climate change, as well as achieving equity and diversity in her local community, where she has been actively involved for many years.

**Thursday 2 February 2012**

VLGA, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton

6pm: Networking, finger-food and refreshments

7-9pm: Leading Edge Forum

**Please RSVP by Monday 30 January**

online at [http://vlga.org.au/Events\\_Training/Leading\\_Edge\\_Forum/Form/](http://vlga.org.au/Events_Training/Leading_Edge_Forum/Form/)

Leading Edge Forum