

Travel Completion Report  
Gordon Y. Tsuji  
May 6 to 18, 2005

Purpose: (1) Participate in training workshop on soil survey and interpretation using the digitized soil map created by Patrick Niemeyer and the USDA/NRCS office in Hilo. (2) Confer with Fernando Sousa and local staff on issues related to project administration; and (3) meet with USAID (Vance and Rodrigues) and MAFF to discuss the proposed no-cost extension.

**Training Workshop on Soil Survey and Interpretation**

Patrick Niemeyer of USDA/NRCS in Hilo introduced the digitized version of the 1978 Portuguese soil maps that was overlain onto aerial photographs provided to us by the Land and Property Division of the Ministry of Justice and ALGIS of MAFF. Two staff members from the Land and Property Division and 4 MAFF/Dili staff participated in the two days along with MAFF/Baucau staff. The first day's sessions were at the Baucau Agricultural District Office and the second was a full day's field exercise from Seical to Fatumaca and to Bubu Ana Cala. There were a total of 17 individuals for day 1 and 13 for day 2.

Four of the 5 participants from a one-month training course in soil survey in Thailand from March to April were at the workshop. Use of local maps and soils created much more interest on their part.

An outline of the workshop is attached as Appendix A.

**Project Administration.**

Implementation of new procedures for cash flow and accounting was reviewed with Fernando Sousa and Nina Amaral. Richard Ogoshi had provided them with training and explanations on the procedures developed by Marilyn DeVera. The local staff now understand the need to submit cash summary reports and receipts twice per month, on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. Jose Ximines worked with Nina to prepare his summary report on Monday May16.

Over dinner, I asked Jose to contact Father Locatelli to request his assistance in temporarily setting up space for a candlenut oil extracting press at the Fatumaca School. He felt Father Locatelli would be receptive. I will follow up with a telephone call to Jose on my return to Honolulu.

The Delta2 house, formerly the du Toit's Dili residence, is being used as a temporary office until the new country coordinator arrives. During my time in Dili, the position announcement for the position was being processed through RCUH. I learned of a possible candidate here in E. Timor. Nina Amaral mentioned that Michael Jones was looking for possible work with the government of TL. I was not able to re-contact Nina Gomes of PC to confirm.

### **Meetings on the No-Cost Extension**

I met with USAID/Dili twice. The first was on Monday May 9 with Stephen Vance to provide him with a copy of the request that was submitted to Mike McGahuey, SMCRSP CTO. I informed him we could make changes as McGahuey would be out of his office until the following Monday May 16. The second meeting was on Thursday with both Vance and Angela Rodrigues. We had a brief discussion on the intern program and how we envisioned implementing it this summer. We all agreed the program is intended to assist the student more than the project overall objectives. I informed both it was one way we could address “new” activities.

Two meetings were held with MAFF. The first was with the Minister where a range of subjects was discussed including the no-cost extension. He mentioned his interest in developing agro-tourism programs and was apprised of a course to be offered this fall at UH/CTAHR by Kent Fleming on the subject. No names were mentioned for participation in such a course. Patrick Niemeyer displayed several view of the digitized soil map used in the training course along with aerial photos and topo maps from ALGIS. He asked that we submit a written final report to MAFF at the conclusion of the no-cost extension.

The second meeting with MAFF was held on Monday, May 16 at the suggestion of Goro Uehara’s email received on Saturday, May 14. I called Angela on Saturday to consult with her on the availability of Vance and her to join in a meeting with the minister on Monday to discuss the no-cost in greater details. However, due to time conflicts we were unable to meet with the Minister. At the recommendation of Angela, we contacted the Permanent Secretary’s office and Deolindo da Silva’s office to arrange a meeting.

We met in the Permanent Secretary’s (Cesar da Cruz) office. Deolindo and Angela participated. After an introduction and overview of the project, we discussed the topic of what it is that MAFF would want to see achieved during the no-cost period. Deolindo recommended our continuing efforts towards food security, consider helping with upland crops, and introducing the use of the PDA in making fertilizer recommendations as he observed when he participated in a training workshop organized by the SM CRSP in Thailand. When asked what kind of crops, he mentioned vegetables including potato. The permanent secretary indicated the country should find alternatives to firewood to preserve their forest reserves. Both he and Angela stated the goal would be to eventually have gas stoves for all. I asked about charcoal. Angela did mention Chip Oliver’s interest in the flash carbonization process to make charcoal. She and da Cruz could be supporters if they received more information. Da Cruz acknowledged the use of charcoal as cleaner burning fuel source. I mentioned that it might make good sense to have a charcoal making business to convert much of the bio residue produced by agriculture, i.e. coffee hulls, candlenut shells and waste, etc.

In discussing the economic growth objective, I reported current progress on the candlenut oil-extracting efforts with the inclusion of other possible products such as black rice and honey. Da Cruz had a jar of honey produced by Spiegel(Hawaii).

Some comments were made on activities beyond Dec 31, 2005. Nothing specific. I did mention that we would consider including more capacity building activities that would include academic degrees for students in agriculture from E. Timor. All concurred that would be good.

**Itinerary**

May 6	Honolulu to Tokyo
May 7	Tokyo to Denpasar
May 8	Denpasar to Dili
May 9	Dili to Baucau
May 12	Baucau to Dili
May 17	Dili to Denpasar to Singapore
May 18	Singapore to Tokyo to Honolulu

## Appendix A

### Soil Survey and Interpretation Workshop

Dates: May 10 and 11, 2005

Place: Baucau, Timor-Leste

Tuesday, May 10

AM Overview on Technology Transfer and Soil Survey/Classification – G. Tsuji

Introduction on soil survey and interpretation – P. Niemeyer

PM Mapreading Exercises with topographic maps, aerial photos, and soils map. Finding locations using maps and compasses.

Wednesday, May 11

Field exercises to sample, examine, and test soils from the low elevations near Seical, at mid-elevation in Fatumaca, and at the upper elevations in Bubu Ana Cala. At each location, participants positioned themselves on the topographic map and aerial photo and use the compass to obtain directions to objects visible on the aerial photo.

Participants compared samples collected from the 3 locations relative to soil color, pH, EC, texture, and structure. Observable physical characteristics such as cracking were discussed relative to its use for agriculture, engineering, and structures.

AM Seical

PM Fatumaca and Venilale (Bubu Ana Cala)