

Thank you for your donations during the 2007-2008 financial year to Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA's project to assist the Library at the National University of East Timor.

Since 2000, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has been assisting the Library at the Universidad Nacional Timor Loros'ae (UNTL). The support from Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has included the purchase of books in Bahasa Indonesia language, providing volunteers to assist with training and cataloguing, and the purchase of important equipment such as computers and shelving.

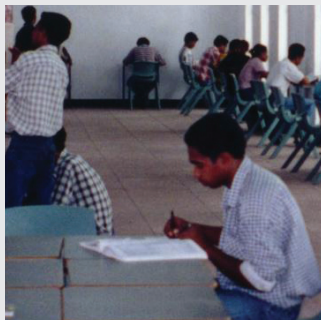
The last few years of training and support has seen the library staff develop their skills to run the library effectively. A multimedia laboratory has been set up to provide students with access to international libraries through the internet, and the library has been stocking the shelves with new books, especially multiple copies of textbooks in Bahasa Indonesia language.

Background to the project

This library was totally destroyed in the 1999 fighting by the anti-independence militia and had to be completely rebuilt. It took three and a half years for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to renovate the building for the library, and for Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA to get shelving and some initial stocks of books in place.

It was finally opened to students and staff in February 2003.

This was made possible through the donation of money, skills and resources by generous individual donors such as yourself, as well as community groups such as the Australia-based Friends of the University of East Timor's Library, which Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA helped establish.



▲ The rebuilt Library at the National University of East Timor, Dili

UNTL employee sorts books on shelves funded by this project ▼



During the past year the focus of the project has been to purchase new books, many of which are required to replace the books damaged or destroyed during the unrest in 2006 and 2007.

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has also been helping the library solve its information technology (IT) problems, many of which have been caused by power surges and problems with electricity supply in Dili. Access to IT resources is important for the staff and students at the library, so Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has been helping the library to improve their multimedia laboratory and repair any broken equipment.

The support of donors such as yourself is critical to assist the development of the University's library, which is a key resource centre to the new generations of East Timorese students.

