

Media Release:

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Tri-lingual Catalogue to accompany MAGNT exhibition

After many months of preparation the production of a 180 page, full colour, tri-lingual catalogue is coming to fruition in preparation for the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) exhibition *Husi Bei Ala Timor Sira Nia Liman – From the Hands of our Ancestors*.

MAGNT Curator of Southeast Asian Art and Material Culture, Joanna Barrkman, said the catalogue, written in English, Portuguese and Tetum, will make the National Collection of Timor-Leste accessible to both the people of Timor-Leste and international audiences.

“This extensive catalogue will be a full colour publication, featuring works from the collections of the National Collection of Timor-Leste and MAGNT, including ceremonial house doors, ancestral figurines, body adornment, hand woven textiles, earthenware ceramics and woven fibre baskets made from the 18th Century to as recently as 2008,” Ms Barrkman said.

“MAGNT is honoured to be the first museum in the world to host this collection, and the exhibition catalogue will make the National Collection of Timor-Leste accessible to both the people of Timor-Leste and international audiences.

“While the process of writing, translating, editing and designing the catalogue between two countries has had its challenges, the benefit of producing an accessible resource that documents aspects of Timor-Leste’s cultural heritage for future generations is really important.

“I would also like to thank ConocoPhillips Australia, for their generous contribution of US \$60,000 in sponsorship towards the publication, in recognition of the importance of preserving and publicly presenting Timor-Leste’s cultural heritage as the nation slowly commences the long process of nation building.”

As part of the sponsorship, the catalogue will provide a valuable educational resource, with 500 copies of the catalogue to be distributed to schools of Timor-Leste.

“It could well be the first time Timor-Leste’s children have read about their cultural heritage in the Tetum language, the most widely spoken of the two official languages of Timor-Leste,” Ms Barrkman said.

“As well as promoting the efforts of the National Directorate of Culture and their plans to establish a National Museum of Timor-Leste, the catalogue also complements the efforts of development agencies in Timor-Leste working to promote sustainable livelihoods with Timorese artists.”

The *Husi Bei Ala Timor Sira Liman – From the Hands of Our Ancestors* catalogue will be a desirable addition to any public and private library focussed on art, anthropology, Timorese and Asian cultures and will be available to coincide with the exhibition opening at MAGNT on 21 November 2008.

Husi Bei Ala Timor Sira Nia Liman – From the Hands of our Ancestors
Arte no artesantu Timor-Leste - The art and craft of Timor-Leste

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Joanna Barrkman on 8999 8249

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