

Seminar: Overseas work and national development. A new path for Timor?



Photo: Michael Rose

This year marks 20 years since Timor-Leste's restoration of independence. It is a time of pride, but also anxiety. The country has succeeded in building schools, but not an economy that can provide new graduates with the jobs they want.

Last year, money sent back from people working overseas became Timor-Leste's second biggest source of income after oil and foreign aid, but before coffee. There are many perspectives on this, but many Timorese have responded by looking for work abroad.

It is now clear that labour sending is going to be a major part of Timor-Leste's future. For the past six months, Dr Michael Rose has been talking to Timorese workers in Australia and Timor-Leste to better understand what this means.

- How is money earned individually in Australia being used collectively by Timorese families?
- In what ways is work in Australia changing Timorese families? How do children adapt when their mother is away? Do workers bring foreign ideas home with them?
- What future does work overseas have in the Timorese economy. Will it promote national development, or drain away talent that is needed at home?

In the presentation (which will use Tetun and English) Dr Michael Rose will present his ideas about these questions. He hopes to see as many of you there as possible for a lively and respectful discussion on this important issue.

Seminar by Dr Michael Rose, Australian National University
Auditorium, Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e
Thursday 7 November 2019, 4.00pm