

Statement of Friendship 2020

Agreement

In a spirit of friendship and cooperation, between the citizens of Covalima and the citizens of the City of Port Phillip, Australia, this Statement of Friendship sets out our understanding and intent.

We, the signatories to this statement, affirm the development of a further ten-year relationship between the elected representatives of Covalima, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and the City of Port Phillip, Australia.

Based on friendship, mutual understanding, learning and respect the fundamental principle of this agreement is to recognise and promote the right of our communities to manage our shared future.

Within the capacity of our communities we agree to work together to learn and benefit from one another in various dimensions, respecting each other's cultural heritage, customs and natural environment.

Guiding Principle

A sustainable and productive relationship based in dialogue, trust and strategic vision.

Shared Values

- the legacy of our friendship and camaraderie, forged in war
- belief in the right to self-determination, self-sufficiency and democracy
- commitment to active community
- participation through our friendship
- desire to learn and benefit from one another
- commitment to social justice and environmental sustainability
- recognition of the importance of fair and just access to resources for health, wealth and wellbeing
- universal entitlement to human rights

Relationship Values

- open, honest and respectful communication
- listening, seeking to understand and being responsive
- promoting equality, inclusiveness
- support for marginalised people and groups
- using transparent, equitable and informed processes and practices
- acting ethically, respecting our mutual rights and obligations, and recognising our humanity
- fostering trust and responsibility in decision making and use of resources

City of Port Phillip

- diverse cultural histories, traditions and values
- democratic institutions, processes and resources
- access to resources and networks to support improvements in Covalima
- creativity and pride in our arts, music and cultural activities
- economic prosperity
- fairness and transparency

Covalima

- self-realised independence
- an oral culture where traditions of respect and family are paramount, and individualism isn't prized
- deep understanding of solidarity, and the strength and humanity that comes from supportive family and community relationships
- the courage and determination to achieve independence and establish new democratic institutions, processes and resources
- resourcefulness and coping strategies to survive and recover in difficult conditions
- significant natural resources

Signatories:

Sr Alfonso Nogueira Nahak, Municipal Administrator, Covalima Municipality, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Cr Bernadene Voss, Mayor, City of Port Phillip, Australia

Sr Alberto de Jesus Barros, Director, Covalima Community Centre, Suai, Covalima Municipality, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Ms Megs Alston, Chair, Friends of Suai/Covalima Community Reference Committee, City of Port Phillip, Australia

Memorandum of Understanding

Municipal Administration of Covalima and City of Port Phillip 2020

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) reaffirms the Friendship between the Municipal Administration of Covalima, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the City of Port Phillip, Australia.

In recognition of the aspirations of the people of Timor-Leste and, in particular the Municipality of Covalima, to build their own democracy and take control of their future, a Friendship was established between the Municipality of Covalima and the City of Port Phillip Council on 4th May 2000, and renewed in 2005 and 2010. Now, after 20 years of developing the Friendship, we are reaffirming our commitment to that Friendship and to the principles and values on which it is based for a further ten years.

The MoU acknowledges the ongoing community-to-community relationship that is already established through the Centro Comunidade Covalima Commission and the City of Port Phillip Friends of Suai/Covalima Community Reference Committee. We also look forward to working together as Timor-Leste establishes elected Local Government in Covalima.

The MoU demonstrates the Municipal Administration of Covalima and the City of Port Phillip's commitment to principles of human rights, democracy, social justice, environmental sustainability and the importance of community participation. The agreement is signed on the understanding that it can be re-negotiated at any time at the wish of either the Municipal Administration of Covalima or the City of Port Phillip, referred to here as 'the parties'.

Declaration

We 'the parties' declare our joint commitment to:

- A productive partnership built on mutual respect and friendship
- Further our partnership through an open and honest communication that understands and responds to the ideas and aspirations of both parties
- Recognising, supporting and strengthening on the community-to-community relationships that are already established
- Transparent processes to ensure that both parties keep the Centro Comunidade Covalima Commission and the City of Port Phillip Friends of Suai/Covalima Community Reference Committee continuously informed of all developments and activities that occur between the two parties.

The underlying principles of the Friendship are:

- Strengthening a relationship that respects the community planning and decision-making processes of both parties

- Acknowledging and respecting the different cultures while aiming to find a way of working that makes each party feel comfortable and inspired
- Understanding that both parties have knowledge, skills, ideas, values and experiences that can be exchanged to the benefit of both communities
- Aspiring to a commitment to honest and open communication.

This MoU commits the two parties to:

- An exchange of knowledge and skills
- Exploring new avenues and innovative ways of sharing information and skills
- Continuing to work together to identify key areas of common interest and exchange
- Maintaining communication between the parties
- Consulting widely with their community.

Signatories:

Signed by Sr Alfonso Nogueira Nahak, Municipal Administrator, Covalima Municipality, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Witnessed by Sr Alberto de Jesus Barros, Director, Covalima Community Centre, Suai, Covalima Municipality, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Signed by Cr Bernadene Voss, Mayor, City of Port Phillip, Australia

Witnessed by Ms Megs Alston, Chair, Friends of Suai/Covalima Community Reference Committee, City of Port Phillip, Australia