Timor-Leste: Security, Development & the Nation-Building Agenda

NGOs, international agencies and the relationship between development and culture

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Lessons from Bariqui Lama

Abundant natural resources

Little erosion

Destroyed Public Sanitation Facilities
Lesson 1

- Respect that what the community discerns in relation to its own development is right.

Lesson 2

- If the community is allowed to be the author of its own development, the community will develop.
Lesson 3
• Partners are resources communities can draw on in the search for solutions

Lesson 4
• Spiritual harmony and maintaining right relations in development is the key to greater community well-being

Lesson 5
• Partners are invited to be part of the life of the community and to be real friends, respecting the community’s boundaries

Lesson 6
• Partners can expect to be active participants within the framework that the culture allows and calls for

Lesson 7
• The process of exchange which brings injustices and inequities to light, together with the process of development, is as important as the desired outcome
Partnership Principle 1
• Ensure the partner is equipped to fulfil its partner role and that the community remains the author, implementer and beneficiary of its own project

Partnership Principle 2
• Reflect with partner and community as the project progresses on the successes and the challenges

Partnership Principle 3
• Offer opportunities to the community and other partner to learn from, and reflect with other communities in Timor-Leste undertaking similar enterprises

Partnership Principle 4
• As far as possible, be an active and open collaborator in dialogue and exchange as the project progresses, sharing the organisation’s values and being honest about the source of those values

Partnership Principle 5
• Be honest about what we can and cannot participate in and our own boundaries

Partnership Principle 6
• Ensure, as the partnership progresses that the fruit of the partnership (from the community’s perspective) is their true development
• Development: increased skills, attitudes, practices and opportunities, among other components that are linked to the concepts of knowledge, learning, power, spirituality and change.
Partnership Principle 7

- Ensure that the fruit of the partnership for Caritas Australia is also our appropriate development.