

**Press Advisory**

Opening October 8th  
Event 6pm Casa Europa

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## “Life Through My Eyes”

### **An Exhibition of Photographs and Paintings by Timorese Young People**

*Dili, Timor-Leste* – Between 9 October and 23 October the European Commission is joining NGO Ba Futuru to host “Life Through My Eyes” - an exhibition of photographs by Timorese children and youth.

NGO Ba Futuru and photographer-in-residence Rose Magno undertook two months of photographic experimentation with a group of twenty-one Timorese children and youth, many of whom had never held a camera before. Using only disposable cameras, these young people created engaging photographs that provide a window into their lives.

Themes such as *conflict transformation, family, friends, and favorite places* are expressed in this exhibition, which is funded by the European Commission as part of the soft opening of the Casa Europa (formerly the Uma Fukun) near the Palacio do Governo. The young budding artists will be present to celebrate the first public showing of their work in the spectacular newly renovated historic building, which will now act as the European Commission’s local office.

The European Commission’s representative in Timor-Leste, H.E. Ambassador Juan Carlos Rey, stated: “It is an honor and a pleasure to host as the first public event in Casa Europa, an exhibition which opens a window into the lives of the Timorese people through the eyes of the children and young people of Timor-Leste”.

The exhibition will remain open to the public at the Casa Europa for a two-week period. For those not in Timor, photos are available on the blog at <http://transformationalartsforpeace.blogspot.com/>

Ba Futuru, meaning ‘for the future’, is the preeminent local peace building organization in Timor-Leste. Since 2004 Ba Futuru has worked with more than 15,000 conflict affected, vulnerable, and at-risk children and youth to provide them educational and capacity development opportunities. In 2008, AusAID, UNICEF and the Finnish Fund for Local Cooperation have provided substantial contributions to Ba Futuru’s peace building work with children, youth, and community leaders.

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