menzies SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH

MEDIA RELEASE

Fifth One Health Symposium focuses on local collaboration pathway to ASEAN

23 September 2025

The fifth One Health Symposium held in Dili, Timor-Leste, has showcased national efforts to align with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) health priorities as it works towards the pathway of joining the Association.

The full-day Symposium focused on the importance of a One Health approach, strengthening local collaboration between human, animal and environmental health, and the importance of co-ordination between government, key partners and communities to address key health challenges.

This event was delivered as part of a collaboration between the Timor-Leste Government and Menzies School of Health Research through the Flemming Fund, the BEN Study and the RESPOND Project – key bodies of work implementing a One Health approach.

The event was officially opened by Minster for Health, Vice Minister of Ministériu Saúde, his excellency Flávio Brandão Mendes de Araújo, Professor Nelson Martins, Technical Advisor of Menzies Timor-Leste, and Mr. Luis de Almeida, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Country Manager for Timor-Leste.

Attendees heard a range of presentations that emphasised the interconnections between human, animal, and environmental health – including veterinary care, public health and environmental challenges.

Key plenary speakers at the event, included:

- Professor Josh Francis, Menzies Timor-Leste lead and Infectious diseases specialist
- Dr. Tri Wibawa, PhD, SpMK(K), Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing at Gadjah Mada University
- Robert Rosenthal, Senior Programme Leader from FHI 360 UK
- Nevio Sarmento, Menzies Honorary Fellow and General Director of Scientific Technician at the Instituto Nacional de Saúde Pública de Timor-Leste (INSP-TL)

This symposium saw representatives from Menzies Timor-Leste, universities, government agencies, non-government organisations and the private sector come together, highlighting the collective commitment to advancing the One Health agenda in Timor-Leste.

It was also an opportunity for the Australian-based Menzies HealthLAB team, an interactive, pop-up human-health laboratory, to visit Timor-Leste and support the establishment of a local iteration, called Hili Saudavel.

Quotes attributable to Minster for Health, Vice Minister of Ministériu Saúde, his excellency Flávio Brandão Mendes de Araújo:

"I would like to express my gratitude to the individuals and institutions that promote one health that have been providing financial support to bring the integrated health approach of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock to a single target that is interconnection among animal health, human health and the environment.

"The Human, Animal, and Environmental diseases are key determinants of public health. This 5th symposium brought together experts from various locations, from Australia to universities abroad, as well as local and national experts led by Prof. Dr. Nelson Martins. These experts also included Timorese citizens involved in the research.

"So, this work is a public health effort, but more of a technical service. So far, we have identified many drug-resistant microbes in our country. I encouraged partners to continue their support and Timor-Leste experts to continue improving our intervention services in the country."

Quotes attributable to Menzies Timor-Leste Technical Advisor, Professor Nelson Martins (spoken at the event):

This symposium was held at a crucial time for Timor-Leste's national development and regional engagement. The theme, "Strengthening Local Collaboration in Human, Animal, and Environmental Health: Timor-Leste's Path to ASEAN through a One Health Approach," demonstrates our shared commitment to advancing health security and resilience through integrated multisectoral collaboration in Timor-Leste. The symposium was also attended by stakeholders from the human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

Your presence today—as researchers, policymakers, professionals, managers, or students—demonstrates a shared dedication to the vision (one health) and its transformative potential. We are honoured, to have three international speakers, with their global perspectives will enhance the discussion and inspire innovation. We also want to express our gratitude to the Minister of Health for his leadership, to donors and partners DFAT and ACIAR for their continued support, and to the Under Secretary of State for Animal Health and Livestock, whose participation demonstrates the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration to address zoonotic diseases, food security, and animal health. Special recognition is given to national presenters, whose abstracts were presented at this symposium.

Your research and insights demonstrate the quality and capacity of Timor-Leste's scientific community, as well as its crucial role in formulating evidence-based policy and practice. I commend your dedication and encourage you to continue striving for excellence. I would also like to thank the Fleming Fund, UK, for their generous financial support, which made this symposium possible and continues to strengthen our capacity to address antimicrobial resistance and other health challenges through a One Health perspective.

In discussions on topics related to Zoonotic Diseases & Integrated Surveillance & Data Sharing; Community-Based Health Initiatives; Health Policy & Intersectoral Collaboration; and Food Security & Nutrition; I invite everyone to reaffirm our shared responsibility to

build inclusive, evidence-based, and sustainable solutions. This symposium will not only serve as a platform for knowledge exchange but also a catalyst for continued partnerships and policy advancement in integrated one health.

I encourage all participants to actively contribute, challenge ideas, and find new ways to collaborate. Together, we can chart a path to position Timor-Leste as a regional leader in One Health and a proactive member of the ASEAN community. Thank you for your presence and participation. I hope the discussions here will be productive and have a significant impact on Timor-Leste.

Quotes attributable to ACIAR Country Manager, Mr. Luis de Almeida:
"On behalf of ACIAR, as the Country Manager for Timor-Leste, I was proud to join MENZIES and key government partners for the recent symposium for advancing the One Health agenda in Timor-Leste.

"The One Health approach, which links human, animal, and environmental health, is essential in Timor-Leste's context to ensure the long-standing nature of food systems. ACIAR has a long-standing partnership with Timor-Leste, rooted in agricultural research for development. And over the years, this partnership has examined improved livelihoods, strengthening food and nutrition security, and building research and institutional capacity in Timor-Leste.

"As part of ACIAR's commitment to One Health, we support a suite of projects that embody the One Health vision. ACIAR and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have co-invested under the ACIAR/IDRC Research Program on One Health. This includes the project 'Developing Strategies to Reduce Brucellosis Transmission and Bacteria Enteropathy and Nutrition in Infants and Children in Timor-Leste'. It's a great illustration of how we collaborate to support cross-sectoral research that spans Timor-Leste's priorities in human health, animal health, agriculture, nutrition and the environment—exactly the components of a strong One Health framework.

"This collaboration is essential to supporting solutions to the interconnected challenges faced by Timor-Leste such as malnutrition, zoonotic disease, food safety and environmental pressures."

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About Menzies School of Health Research
Menzies is at the forefront of health and medical research dedicated to improving the lives of peoples across the Northern Territory, Asia Pacific and beyond. By joining scientific knowledge with community wisdom, Menzies strives to Close the Gap, and shape a healthier, more equitable future where communities can thrive.

Simpóziu One Health da-lima ne’ebe foku ba kolaborasaun lokál iha dalan ba ASEAN

23 Setembru 2025

Simpóziu One Health da-lima ne’ebé hala’o iha Dili, Timor-Leste, hatudu ona esforsu nasionál sira ne’ebe aliña ho prioridade saúde husi Asosiasaun Nasaun Sudeste Aziátiku (ASEAN), enkuantu servisu ne’e nia dalan atu adere ba Asosiasaun ne’e.

Simpóziu loron tomak ne'e foka ba importánsia husi aprosimasaun One Health, haforsa kolaborasaun lokál entre saúde umanu, animál no ambientál, no importánsia husi koordenasaun entre governu, parseiru prinsipal no komunidade sira hodi rezolve dezafiu esensial husi saúde.

Eventu ne’e hala’o nu’udar parte ida husi kolaborasaun entre Governu Timor-Leste no Menzies School of Health Research liuhusi Flemming Fund, BEN Study no Projetu RESPOND –órgaun prinsipal sira ne’ebé servisu hodi implementa aprosimasaun One Health.

Eventu ne’e ofisialmente loke husi Ministru Saúde, Vise Ministru Ministériu Saúde, sua exelénsia Flávio Brandão Mendes de Araújo, Profesór Nelson Martins, Asesór Tékniku husi Menzies Timor-Leste, no Sr. Luis de Almeida, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Country Manager for Timor-Leste.

Partisipante sira rona aprezentasaun oioin ne'ebé subliña interligasaun sira entre saúde umanu, animál no ambientál – inklui kuidadu veterináriu, saúde pública no dezafiu ambientál sira.

Oradór prinsipál iha plenária husi eventu ne’e, inklui:

- Professor Josh Francis, Menzies Timor-Leste lead and Infectious diseases specialist
- Dr. Tri Wibawa, PhD, SpMK(K), Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing at Gadjah Mada University
- Robert Rosenthal, Senior Programme Leader from FHI 360 UK
- Nevio Sarmento, Menzies Honorary Fellow and General Director of Scientific Technician at the Instituto Nacional de Saúde Pública de Timor-Leste (INSP-TL)

Simpóziu ne’e reune reprezentante sira husi Menzies Timor-Leste, universidade sira, ajénsia governu nian, organizasaun naun-governamentál no setór privadu mai hamutuk, hodi destaka kompromisu koletivu atu promove ajenda One Health iha Timor-Leste.

Ida-ne'e mós oportunidade ida ba ekipa Menzies HealthLAB ne'ebé baze iha Austrália, nu’udar laboratóriu saúde-umanu interativu no temporáriu, hodi mai vizita Timor-Leste no apoia estabelesimentu iterasaun lokál ida, ne'ebé hanaran Hili Saudavel.

Sitasaun atribuível ba Ministru Saúde, Vise Ministru Ministériu Saúde, sua exelénsia Flávio Brandão Mendes de Araújo:
Ha'u hakarak hato'o ha'u-nia agradesimentu ba indivídu no instituisaun sira ne'ebé promove One Health, durante ne'e fó apoiu finanseiru hodi lori aprosimasaun saúde integradu husi Ministériu Saúde, Ministériu Agrikultura, Peskas no Pekuária ba alvu ida de'it, mak hanesan interligasaun entre saúde animál, saúde umanu no ambiente.

Moras husi Umanu, Animál, no Ambientál maka determinante prinsipal ba saúde pública. Simpóziu ba dala 5 ne'e halibur péritu sira husi fatin oioin, husi Austrália to'o universidade sira iha rai-li'ur, no mós peritu lokál no nasionál sira ne'ebé lidera husi Prof. Dr. Nelson Martins. Péritu sira ne'e inklui mos sidadaun Timoroan sira ne'ebe involve iha peskiza ne'e.

Entaun, servisu ida-ne'e nu'udar esforsu saúde pública, maibé hare'e liubá servisu tékniku nian. To'o agora, ita identifika ona mikróbiu barak ne'ebé rezistente ba ai-moruk iha ita-nia ra'in. Ha'u enkoraja parseiru sira atu kontinua sira-nia apoiu no ba péritu Timor-Leste sira atu kontinua hadi'a ita-nia servisu intervensaun iha rai-laran.

Sitasaun atribuível ba Asesór Tékniku Menzies Timor-Leste, Profesór Nelson Martins:
Simpóziu ne'e hala'o iha tempu ne'ebé krusiál ba Timor-Leste nia dezenvolvimentu nasionál no envolvimentu rejionál. Ho tema "Haforsa Kolaborasaun Lokál iha Saúde Umanu, Animál, no Ambientál: Timor-Leste nia Dalan ba ASEAN liuhusi Aprosimasaun One Health," hatudu ita-nia kompromisu hamutuk atu promove seguransa saúde no reziliénsia liuhusi kolaborasaun integradu multisetoriál iha Timor-Leste. Simpóziu ne'e mós partisipa husi parte interesada sira husi setór saúde umanu, animál, no ambientál.

Ita-bo'ot nia prezensa ohin loron—nu'udar peskizadór, polítiku, profisionál, jestór, ka estudante—hatudu dedikasaun hamutuk ba vizaun (One Health) no ninia poténsia transformativu nian. Ami sente onradu, atu iha oradór internasionál na'in tolu, ho sira-nia perspetiva globál sei haburas diskusaun no inspira inovasaun. Ami mós hakarak hato'o ami-nia agradesimentu ba Ministra Saúde ba nia lideransa, ba doadór no parseiru DFAT no ACIAR ba sira-nia apoiu kontinua, no Sekretáriu Estadu ba Saúde Animál no Pekuária, ne'ebé nia partisipasaun hatudu importánsia husi kolaborasaun entre setór sira hodi rezolve moras zoonótika, seguransa ai-han, no saúde animál. Rekoñesimentu espesiál fó ba aprezentadór nasionál sira, ne'ebé sira-nia abstratu aprezenta iha simpóziu ida-ne'e.

Ita-bo'ot nia peskiza no hanoin sira hatudu kualidade no kapasidade komunidade sientífika Timor-Leste nian, no mós ninia papél krusiál iha formulasaun polítika no prátika bazeia ba evidénsia. Ha'u elojia ita-bo'ot nia dedikasaun no enkoraja ita-bo'ot sira atu kontinua haka'as-an ba exelênsia. Ha'u mós hakarak agradese ba Fleming Fund, Reinu Unidu, ba sira nia apoiu finanseiru jenerozu, ne'ebé halo simpóziu ida-ne'e sai posivel no kontinua haforsa ami nia kapasidade atu rezolve rezisténsia antimikrobiál no dezafiu saúde sira seluk liuhusi perspetiva One Health.

Iha diskusaun sira kona-ba tópiku sira ne'ebé relasiona ho Moras Zoonótika & Vijilánsia Integradu & Distribuisaun Dadus; Inisiativa Saúde Bazeia ba Komunidade; Polítika Saúde & Kolaborasaun Intersetoriál; no Seguransa Ai-han & Nutrisaun; Ha'u konvida ema hotu

atu reafirma ita-nia responsabilidade hamutuk atu hari'i solusaun sira ne'ebé inkluzivu, bazeia ba evidénsia, no sustentável. Simpóziu ida-ne'e la'ós de'it sai hanesan plataforma ida ba troka koñesimentu maibé mós hanesan katalizadór ida ba parseria sira ne'ebé kontinua no avansu polítika nian iha saúde ida ne'ebé integradu.

Ha'u enkoraja partisipante hotu-hotu atu kontribui ho ativu, dezafia ideia sira, no buka dalan foun atu kolabora. Hamutuk, ita bele trasa dalan ida atu koloka Timor-Leste nu'udar líder rejionál iha One Health no membru proativu komunidade ASEAN nian. Obrigado ba prezensa no partisipasaun. Ha'u hein katak diskusaun sira iha ne'e sei sai produtivu no iha impaktu signifikativu ba Timor-Leste.

Sitasaun atribuível ba Country Manager ACIAR, Sr. Luis de Almeida:
Lori ACIAR nia naran, nu'udar Country Manager ba Timor-Leste, ha'u sente orgullu atu hamutuk ho MENZIES no parseiru prinsipal governu nian ba simpóziu foin lalais ne'e atu avansa ajenda One Health iha Timor-Leste.

Aprosimasaun Saúde Ida, ne'ebé liga entre saúde umanu, animál, no ambiente, esensiál iha kontestu Timor-Leste atu garante kontinuidade husi Sistema alimentar. ACIAR iha parseria kleur ona ho Timor-Leste, ho baze iha peskiza agrícola ba dezenvolvimentu. No iha tinan hirak nia laran, parseria ne'e ezamina ona meius subsisténsia ne'ebé di'ak liu, haforsa seguransa ai-han no nutrisaun, no hari'i peskiza no kapasidade institusionál iha Timor-Leste.

Hanesan parte ida husi ACIAR nia kompromisu ba One Health, ami apoia projetu lubuk ida ne'ebé maka hakarak alkansa vizaun One Health. ACIAR no Sentru Peskiza Dezenvolvimentu Internasionál Kanadá (IDRC) investe hamutuk ona iha Programa Peskiza ACIAR/IDRC kona-ba One Health. Ida-ne'e inklui projetu 'Dezenvolve Estratéjia sira hodi Hamenus Transmisaun Bruseloze no Baktéria Enteropatia no Nutrisaun iha Infánsia no Labarik sira iha Timor-Leste'. Ida-ne'e maka ilustrasaun di'ak ida kona-ba oinsá ami kolabora hodi apoia peskiza trans-setoriál ne'ebé maka aborda Timor-Leste nia prioridade sira iha saúde umana, saúde animál, agrikultura, nutrisaun no ambiente—Hanesan duni ho komponente sira husi enkuadramentu One Health ne'ebé maka forte tebes.

Kolaborasaun ida-ne'e esensiál atu fó apoiu ba solusaun sira ba dezafiu interligadu ne'ebé Timor-Leste hasoru hanesan malnutrisaun, moras zoonótika, seguransa ai-han no presaun ambientál sira.

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