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# Investing in Timor-Leste

Opportunities, Incentives and TradeInvest Support

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*Timor-Leste: An Emerging Partner for Investment, Trade and Sustainable Growth*



TradeInvest Timor-Leste

# Timor-Leste at a glance



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**1.4 M**

People, one of Asia's youngest populations



**2002**

Independence restored; Asia's youngest democracy



**USD**

Official currency, no exchange-rate risk for investors



**ASEAN**

11th Member State since 26 October 2025



**WTO**

166th member since August 2024



**4**

Languages: Tetun, Portuguese, English and Indonesian in daily business

# TradeInvest Timor-Leste: your entry point

The Government of Timor-Leste's investment and export promotion agency, established by Decree-Law No. 45/2015 and strengthened by Decree-Law No. 58/2022 as an autonomous public institute. One agency, one door, for the whole investment journey.



## 1. Promotion

Presenting Timor-Leste's priority sectors to the world, identifying high-value markets, and connecting investors with the right line ministries and policy platforms.



## 2. Facilitation

Issuing the Declaration of Benefits and supporting Special Investment Agreements, easing regulatory bottlenecks, and opening work-visa pathways so projects move from approval to execution.



## 3. Monitoring and Aftercare

Staying with the investor after the deal: tracking commitments, jobs and diversification, and resolving operational issues with government counterparts.

### WHAT YOU GET FROM US



Market and sector information



Licensing and incentive guidance



Coordination across government



Links to local partners and suppliers

# Where the opportunities are

Seven priority sectors where Timor-Leste already has demonstrable readiness and where incentives are available



## Agriculture and agro-processing

Fertile land, low-input farming, growing demand for processed food



## Fisheries and aquaculture

Rich waters in the Timor Sea and Wetar Strait; largely untapped



## Manufacturing

Light industry and import substitution with tax-free capital goods



## Logistics and connectivity

Port, airport and cold-chain services linking us to ASEAN and Australia



## Coffee

Organic Arabica, our flagship export; roasting and specialty channels



## Tourism

Pristine reefs, mountains, culture; hotels and eco-resorts needed



## Renewable energy

Solar and hydro potential; demand for clean generation



## Market access

ASEAN member, WTO member, US-dollar economy, duty-free access for LDC exports in key markets



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## Coffee is our proof of concept

Organic Arabica grown by tens of thousands of smallholder families, already exported to Asia, Europe and the Americas. The Coffee Association MOU signed today opens this channel to Chinese buyers.

# Why it pays: incentives and a proven track record

## INCENTIVES UNDER THE PRIVATE INVESTMENT LAW (LAW NO. 15/2017)

### Income tax holiday of up to 100%, by investment zone

**5** years

Zone A: Dili

**8** years

Zone B: other municipalities

**10** years

Zone C: Oecusse and Ataúro



**100% customs duty exemption**  
on capital goods and equipment for  
construction and operation



**Sales and services tax exemptions**  
on qualifying goods and services, for the  
same 5, 8 or 10 years



**Flat 10% corporate income tax**  
after the holiday, among the lowest in the  
region



**Guaranteed work visas**  
for key foreign managers and technical  
staff

## TRACK RECORD OF PROJECTS WE MONITOR

**USD 627.6 M**

capital investment executed by 33 approved projects, 2016 to 2023: an  
average of about USD 100 million a year

**USD 302.1 M**

gross revenues generated by those projects in the same period

**8,731**

direct and indirect jobs sustained by monitored projects in 2024 and 2025

*Source: TradelInvest Investment Monitoring Reports (2022, 2024, 2025), covering NDI, FDI and  
joint ventures*

# Success stories: investors already delivering



## AVIATION AND CONNECTIVITY

### Aero Dili

Timorese airline expanding international routes, opening the connectivity that tourism and trade depend on.



## MANUFACTURING

### Heineken Timor-Leste

Modern brewery producing for the domestic market and training a skilled local workforce.



## AGRO-PROCESSING AND EXPORT

### Acelda

Timorese company processing premium candlenut oil for export markets, sourcing from smallholder farmers.



# How to start: five steps with TradelInvest at your side



## Talk to us

Share your project idea. We provide sector data, site options and a first read on eligibility, at no cost.



## Register your company

Business registration through SERVE, the one-stop registration service. Foreign ownership is permitted.



## Apply for benefits

Submit the Declaration of Benefits application through TradelInvest. Large-scale projects may negotiate a Special Investment Agreement.



## Set up on the ground

Land, sector licences and work visas. TradelInvest coordinates the line ministries so you deal with one counterpart.



## Operate with aftercare

Our monitoring team stays in touch, tracks commitments, and resolves operational issues as they arise.



### We are here all week.

The TradelInvest team is at CAEXPO until 21 September for one-to-one meetings. Bring your questions, your sector, and your timeline; we will tell you frankly what is possible and what it takes.

TIMOR-LESTE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

# two things to take from this room

- 1 Concrete opportunities, not investment in general**  
Agriculture, coffee, fisheries, tourism, manufacturing, renewable energy and logistics, with incentives already in law.
- 2 One agency to work with**  
TradeInvest gives you information, licensing guidance, government coordination and local partners.



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Dili, Timor-Leste

Obrigadu. Thank  
you. 谢谢.



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