

## INDONESIA - TIMOR PROVINCE

Official Language: **Bahasa Indonesia**

### Vision Statement

*In union with the Most Holy Triune God, rooted in the local cultures, live the values of God's Kingdom in the spirit of Prophetic Dialogue.*

### Mission Statement

*We, the Divine Word Missionaries of the Timor Province, commit ourselves to help people be more rooted in the Word of God and thereby animate them to create human conditions where everyone values the dignity of the poor and the marginalized, protects the rights of the oppressed and promotes peace, unity and the common good, so we can experience communion among people and with God.*

### 1. Societal Setting

Indonesia is one of the most populated countries in the world after China, India and the United States of America. There are about 300 ethnic groups with their respective dialects and languages. Looking at the present situation, we cannot deny the fact there are big developments and changes that the Indonesians are facing now and it is really influencing their socio-cultural and religious experience. The west of Indonesia seems to be developing more than the east, where IDT province is located.



There are many mega projects that are going on now, especially in the border area of Timor Leste. As the development occurs, there are also people coming from other places, mostly for business. But these business people are inclined to gain control of the local economy; nearly 75% of the local economy is in their hands.

What could be done in the present situation? There is a good collaboration between the local government and the Society. The provincial and his council attend seminars, workshops and activities organized by the local government. Some projects of the local government regarding the environment are given to SVDs to be model projects. Implementation of the law concerning human rights and migrant protection also includes members of the province.

There is a hope that besides problems and obstacles, the Indonesian government with the present President and his administration are in control and echoing the spirit of understanding and dialogue, the spirit of respect and unity.

## 2. Ecclesial Setting

Indonesia is one of the largest Islamic countries in the world; it has about 86.1% Muslims. The minority communities – Protestants and Catholics, Hindus and Buddhists have to build up a good dialogue with the Muslims. Some issues are surfacing lately in Indonesia regarding the religious practices and Christians' freedom in the countryside. More lay people tend to be proactive in the promotion of the religious activities. So the Church itself has become more alive because of the participation of the faithful. The lay people do the following activities: charitable work, medical missions, housing projects, interfaith dialogue, and others. The main trends are: solidarity with the economically poor, opposing environmental destruction and confronting the violation of human rights. In line with that, the SVD with its charisms also are involved in particular issues that are surfacing nowadays. Hence, in this kind of situation, a strong leadership and the credibility of the Church are really needed to fight for improvement and also work with the proactive lay leadership in Indonesia today.

In this time, we see that widening our perspectives of the new ways to build a dialogue with the Muslims is really needed now. Working for the marginalized in the urban areas and migrant workers (Kunching-Malaysia) is also needed now. We are also dealing with the local government in addressing the danger of HIV/AIDS and the needs of refugees.

## 3. Intercultural Mission – *Ad Extra*

### Those in Final Vows

<b>IN ACTIVE MINISTRY</b>	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
<b>Parish</b>	20	17.7	20.3	22.1
<b>Education</b>	31	27.4	23.0	21.0
Schools	12	-		
Universities	19	-		
<b>Formation/ SVD Vocation</b>	8	7.1	11.5	11.1
<b>Administration/ Support</b>	14	12.4	8.1	4.6
<b>Other Apostolates</b>	16	14.2	15.5	23.3
JPIC	1	-		
Bible	1	-		
Communication	1	-		
Mission Animation	1	-		
Others	12	-		

### Those in Final Vows

<b>NOT IN MINISTRY</b>	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
Studies/ Orientation	12	10.6	7.4	7.2
Retired/Sick	11	9.7	6.1	4.6
Others	1	0.8	8.1	6.1

**Parishes:** After celebrating the 100 years of SVD presence in Indonesia, the Bishop of Atambua-Timor has given back the parish of Lahurus to the SVD as a gift, because Lahurus is the first parish our missionaries served before spreading the Good News throughout the region. So Lahurus parish is under the care of SVDs now. There are also some other parishes given to SVDs to take care of and some SVD confreres are assigned to these parishes. In these parishes, besides following the guidelines

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of the local diocese, our confreres in their activities and programs also insert the spirit of SVD Characteristic Dimensions in line with the policies of the diocese. Our confreres are well appreciated for their pastoral work by the Bishop, the people and the diocesan priests. Our confreres' personal witness is appreciated and parochial management is done well. Pastoral services are given in the spirit of sacrifice and they bring people closer to God. Timor Province has a new mission territory in Sulawesi Tenggara – Unaaha. The Bishop welcomed the SVDs to serve in his diocese.

**Education Apostolate:** Our province has two institutions: Catholic University of Widya Mandira Kupang (known as UNWIRA) and St. Joseph Technical High School (secondary high school) in Nenuk, Atambua. UNWIRA as Catholic University is still run by the four SVD Indonesian provinces and the Bishops of

East Nusa Tenggara, but all the assets, according to the last decision of RUA (board meeting of the stakeholder of UNWIRA), are owned by the Society. Currently, UNWIRA has at least 7,000 students who are studying in seven departments/faculties. We have 18 confreres working in UNWIRA as administrator, campus minister, professors and managers. Meanwhile the technical high school in Nenuk, Atambua is owned by the Society. We have seven confreres who are serving there as principal, teachers and administrator. At present we have more than 200 students who are studying there.

**Other Apostolates:** We work in three dioceses – the Archdiocese of Kupang, the Archdiocese of Makasar and the Diocese of Atambua. One confrere is serving in Kupang as praeses of the minor seminary of St. Raphael Oepoi, meanwhile in diocese of Atambua we have 3 confreres working in the finance office, the head of mission animation, and the youth and JPIC coordinator. There are 2 confreres helping the minor seminary Sta. Maria Immaculata Lalian, Atambua. In the Archdiocese of Makasar we have two confreres working in a parish.

### Characteristic Dimensions

**Mission Animation:** The mission secretary made a program and sent it to all SVDs. It is all about living the SVD charisms through devotion to Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz; introducing the SVD charisms to the parishes as well as to the lay people; forming the SVD friends/Soverdya; and creating mission

funds. As a result, after 3 years the people are appreciating and coming to know the spirituality of our founder.

**Bible Apostolate:** In the last 3 years after the 17th general chapter, the biblical coordinator has been providing good programs to promote the Word of God among people and the SVD confreres, but as a whole the implementation is not showing significant improvement yet. In some parishes, our confreres have taken the initiative to form basic ecclesial communities in coordination with the SVD biblical coordinator and dioceses. In Noemeto, our retreat center has offered Bible studies to the youth and groups of lay people. We are even challenged by the Bishop of Atambua to become more active in promoting the Word of God and make it more vibrant in the lives of the people.

**Communication:** Our province has one radio station based in Kupang under the name of *Radio Verbum Tirilolok Swara Kupang*. It is all about sharing mission stories and the good news about God. Our radio Verbum Tirilolok has played a big role in doing mission through broadcasting. It is still doing Sunday reflections, daily Bible reading and reflection, prayers and leaflets for Sunday Masses that circulate to both the dioceses of Kupang and Atambua. Our radio station has become a channel to spread the Good News to all the regions; it is available throughout the country and even in foreign countries through live streaming. Some of our missionaries from SVD Timor who are serving in mission territories, both locally and abroad,

communicate directly through Live Streaming Radio Tirilolok or through media internet. Besides that, our radio can call for a live broadcast of the activities in parishes, meetings, or seminars that happen around the globe. It can do interviews live as long as the signal can be reached. Our radio broadcast is very active in promoting the spirit of dialogue with other religions, social activities, environmental programs and charity activities with doctors in the rural areas.

**JPIC:** Our JPIC coordinator works hand in hand with some organizations both in the private sector and in the local government unit. They exchange ideas about issues regarding how to protect the human rights of the workers abroad, migrants, and people with HIV, as well as about environmental issues regarding mining and other social conflicts. We have several confreres who are assigned to these particular ministries.

### Priorities among Congregational Directions

We have chosen as our priorities among the Congregational Directions of the last general chapter the Family Apostolate and the Youth Education and Research. In light of the action plan, we have to admit that all these priorities have not been done well. In fact there are many activities that are being done by the confreres of IDT, but they are not really well planned. Each confrere is creative to do many activities in an institution or in a parish but it is not really well organized within the province. So those priori-

ties that we have chosen in IDT since last general chapter are not fully implemented with good action plans.

With the new leadership of the province, it's time for us to look back, to reflect, and to see the real problems in order to be more conscious of our activities.

### Collaboration with the SSpS and others

With the SSpS, we have a common celebration during the feast of St. Arnold, doing the triduum in different SSpS and SVD communities before the culmination of the celebration on the 15th of January. There is a yearly common meeting and recollection among all the religious congregations who are serving in the diocese of Atambua. In fact, an SVD confrere is entrusted as the head of all the religious who are serving in the diocese of Atambua. Here, through the initiatives of the Bishop, some special activities for the religious congregations are conducted, e.g., a yearly exhibition and mission promotion. There is an invitation from some diocesan priests to our confreres to help out in giving recollections, confessions, retreats, spiritual talks, Bible studies and *lectio divina*.

### SVD Lay Association

The SVD Timor province, through the mission secretary, has taken the initiative to form lay partners who could continue our Arnoldus spirituality and also reach out in mission. The Soverdya group consists of members who are mostly the parents of the confreres and SSpS, and the parents of those who are still in the

minor seminary and temporary vows. The lay group of EX-SVDs is being formed. These lay partners are very much interested in our mission because of their closeness with old missionaries and the memory of good relationships in the past. SVD local benefactors, donors, and an SVD Friends club are being promoted. As of now the Soverdya in Dawan district-Kefameanu and Soverdya Oebofu are doing well, but they are not officially recognized yet.

## 4. Intercultural life – *Ad Intra*

MEMBERSHIP	2018	2012	2005
Bishops	1	1	1
Clerics	81	85	104
Brothers (final vows)	29	29	26
Brothers (temporal vows)	12	6	11
Scholastics	5	2	7
Novices	113	63	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>238</b>

AGE AND COUNTRY	2018	2012	2005
Average age	51.8	50.8	37.5
Nationalities	4	5	9

**Spirituality:** Each community has realized the importance of prayer in its daily life. So there is community prayer, weekly Bible sharing, and adoration in every community.

**Community:** There is a meeting for all members of every community on a regular basis. The province celebrates the feast days of our confreres annually in September. Membership in our province is still dominated by confreres from Flores and Timor. The foreign confreres nowadays are very few in number. So forming an international community with confreres from other countries becomes rather difficult.

**Leadership:** A workshop on leaderships was organized. The goal was to improve our leadership skill in handling some responsibilities in the province – rectors, commission heads, unit heads and other responsible persons participated. Besides that, it was also to widen and update the new style of being a leader today; how to be a servant leader, animating a participative leadership among confreres.

**Finance:** Our total financial subsidy from the generalate is being decreased. For formation, we still fully depend on the generalate. To respond to our financial situation, we have to come out

with a self-reliance program in all levels. Some aspects are being insisted upon, such as submitting stipends or what our confreres earn outside; living a simple life style; building up a self-awareness of giving more than receiving; utilizing all assets to the maximum; and transparency through both internal and external audits.

**Formation:** We have two formation houses in Timor province. One in Kupang for Brother Students (BBG); this is for brother candidates in temporary vows who are studying in some universities or the academy in Kupang. The other one is St. Joseph, Nenuk Atambua, which is the novitiate. We still have good numbers compared to some religious orders in the region.

The province is paying attention to ongoing formation by sending the young confreres for special studies or a course. There are short courses on economy, accounting (4-6 months), renewal of commitment in service (retreat center in Jawa), the renewal program in Nemi, and attending the workshop in “Sumur Yakob”.