

Zumalai Youth Centre Computer Skills Project

A Community Centre on the Carmelite Compound has now been converted into a Youth Centre. The centre once had rooms for offices and accommodation but now is a Youth Centre. The building has been freshly painted both inside and outside. Three different Courses are being run at the Centre. There is an English Course held in the morning that is attended by post school students and also senior secondary school students. Portuguese classes are held in the afternoons. Computer classes are being held in the evening from (6-8) pm when the town electricity supply is operating.

Two Windows computers have been purchased and 10 Infoxchange computers which are recycled by Info Timor. Info Timor is the first not for profit enterprise in Timor-Leste focusing on using technology for capacity building. Besides recycling computers the international group Info Timor runs training sessions in using computers and maintaining them. Three students have completed a short computer training course in Suai and three more students are training at present. There are also three other students who are doing a 3 month Computer Maintenance Course in Baucau. The computer maintenance course is an introduction to the Ubuntu System and training and development in maintenance hardware skills. It includes troubleshooting skills and the overall management of the computer. The Info Timor project is promoting the Ubuntu Operating System which is free of charge and free of viruses. The Info Timor project aims to address East Timor's low level of technological infrastructure and skilled IT staff and eventually address further issues such as unemployment and the digital divide.

Inside the Youth Centre in Zumalai the computers have been placed on six wooden rectangular tables. These tables were made by local Zumalai carpenters.