



# AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ASIA PACIFIC FUTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

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## ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network

### PROJECT SUMMARIES

#### Fourth Round 2006

PA40605

**Applicant:** Dr Dennis Shoesmith and Dr Steven Harram  
**Affiliation:** Charles Darwin University  
**Project Title:** "The Crisis in East Timor: Understanding the Past, Imagining the Future"  
**Awarded:** \$ 6622.50

This one day symposium at Charles Darwin University (CDU) examined the causes of the recent unrest in East Timor and the consequences of those events for future development. It provided an historical and political context for these issues, identified matters that need to be addressed, set a context for ongoing discussions, and considered ways that Australia and Australians can give support. Economic and environmental issues were also considered. Experienced academics and postgraduate students with expertise in East Timor studies from CDU and the Australian National University's Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies were invited to participate in the symposium which provided the basis for an international conference dealing with similar issues to be held at CDU in 2007. It was envisaged the conference would be the first of a number to be held at CDU examining the situation of other small post-colonial states in the Asia Pacific region, such as the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. While the project's special significance lay in its bringing together researchers from the Northern Territory and across Australia with expertise in East Timor to provide a basis for future collaboration, with Darwin as the major transport hub for researchers, it also helped establish CDU as a centre of research excellence for matters concerning our region and the development of future projects. The proceedings of the symposium are to be published with the inclusion of contributions from participating postgraduate and postdoctoral students.