

Timor Leste through the lens

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Captivated by the simplicity of Timor Leste, Prof Antonio Almeida Serra, Economic Advisor of National Parliament of Timor Leste, has captured the beauty of this country through his lens, which will be showcased at a forthcoming exhibition at Gallery Gitanjali

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He is a Portuguese man with a big heart for a country he serves as economic Advisor of national Parliament.

Captivated by the simplicity and sheer beauty of timor Leste's landscapes, Prof Antonio Almeida Serra, a selfconfessed amateur photographer, has been capturing through the lens of his canon camera.

His visit to Goa, as part of the timor Leste delegation, now offers him a perfect

opportunity to exhibit some of these photographs as a way of enlightening the people of Goa about his adoptive country. " For my exhibition – ' A touristic glance of east timor: the country and the people'– i carefully chose those photographs that would give a true picture of the people and topography of timor Leste. Some of these photographs are very old, while others more recent, and all have been taken during my travels through the country," explains Serra.

His point of focus, he reveals, are subjects that he is most interested in. cities are far too pretentious for his liking. " i am very fond of doing portraits, monuments and the countryside," he says. One photograph, which he counts among his favourite, is that of a ' ferik' (old lady) which took him several years to shoot. Apparently, she was unwilling to pose with her betel-nut- stained and broken teeth, but he finally got her to pose with a closed mouth.

Another shot of the verdant rice fields, shot just three months ago, highlights timor Leste's green tropical countryside before the dry season. Similarly, other shots like the one with a man wearing a crown of feathers and the other with bells around his ankles serve to showcase the traditions and culture of the country.

"I hope the viewers are able to get a glimpse and understanding of the timorean people, their life and their country from the photographs," he says, with the ultimate aim of inviting Goan people to visit Timor Leste.

"Tourism in Timor Leste is still in its nascent stages, but is fast developing with good hotels and restaurants," he states. "One thing nobody knows about this country is that it is one of the best places for scuba diving in the world."

(The exhibition in collaboration with Lusophone Society of Goa will be inaugurated by Prof Dayananda M S (Head of Management Studies, Goa University) at Gallery Gitanjali, Panjim on July 23, 2014 at 5.30pm and will remain open till July 25).