INVESTMENT GUARANTIES

Agreement between the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and EAST TIMOR

Signed at Washington July 25, 2002

NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pursuant to Public Law 89—497, approved July 8, 1966 (80 Stat. 271; 1 U.S.C. 113)—

". . .the Treaties and Other International Acts Series issued under the authority of the Secretary of State shall be competent evidence . . . of the treaties, international agreements other than treaties, and proclamations by the President of such treaties and international agreements other than treaties, as the case may be, therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof."

EAST TIMOR

Investment Guaranties

Agreement signed at Washington July 25, 2002;
Entered into force July 25, 2002.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and **THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR;**

AFFIRMING their common desire to encourage economic activities in the Democratic Republic of East Timor that promote the development of the economic resources and productive capacities of the Democratic Republic of East Timor; and

RECOGNIZING that this objective can be promoted through investment support provided by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation ("OPIC"), a development institution and an agency of the United States of America, in the form of investment insurance, coinsurance and reinsurance, debt and equity investments and investment guaranties;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE 1

As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the meanings herein provided. The term "Investment Support" refers to any debt or equity investment, any investment guaranty and any investment insurance, reinsurance or coinsurance which is provided by the Issuer (or, in the case of coinsurance, is provided by the Issuer and commercial insurance companies ("Coinsurers") under coinsurance arrangements under which the Issuer acts both for itself and for such Coinsurers) in connection with a project in the territory of the Democratic Republic of East Timor. The term "Issuer" refers to OPIC and any successor agency of the United States of America, and any agent of either. The term "Taxes" means all present and future taxes, levies, imposts, stamps, duties and charges, whether direct or indirect, imposed in the Democratic Republic of East Timor and all liabilities with respect thereto.

ARTICLE 2

The two Governments confirm their understanding that the Issuer's activities are governmental in nature and therefore:

(a) The Issuer shall not be subject to regulation under the laws of the Democratic Republic of East Timor applicable to insurance or financial organizations, but, in the provision of Investment Support, shall be afforded all rights and have access to all remedies of any such entity, whether domestic, foreign or multilateral.

(b) The Issuer, all operations and activities undertaken by the Issuer in connection with any Investment Support, and all payments, whether of interest, principal, fees, dividends, premiums or the proceeds from the liquidation of assets or of any other nature, that are made, received or guaranteed by the Issuer in connection with any Investment Support shall be exempt from Taxes, whether imposed directly on the Issuer or payable in the first instance by others. Neither projects receiving Investment Support nor investors in such projects shall be exempt from Taxes by operation of this Article, provided, however, that any Investment Support shall be accorded tax treatment no less favorable than that accorded to the investment support of any other national or multilateral development institution which operates in the Democratic Republic of East Timor. The Issuer shall not be subject to Taxes in connection with any transfer, succession or other acquisition which occurs pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Article or Article 3(a) hereof, but obligations for Taxes previously accrued and unpaid with respect to interests received by the Issuer shall not be extinguished as a result of such transfer, succession or other acquisition.

(c) If the Issuer, alone or with a Coinsurer, makes a payment to any person or entity, or exercises its rights as a creditor or subrogee,in connection with any Investment Support, the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor shall recognize the transfer to, or acquisition by, the Issuer and any Coinsurer of any cash, accounts, credits, instruments or other assets in connection with such payment or the exercise of such rights, as well as the succession of the Issuer and any Coinsurer to any right, title, claim, privilege or cause of action existing, or which may arise, in connection therewith.

(d) With respect to any interests transferred to the Issuer or a Coinsurer or any interests to which the Issuer or a Coinsurer succeeds under this Article, in its own right or otherwise, the Issuer shall assert no greater rights than those of the person or entity from whom such interests were received, provided that nothing in this Agreement shall limit the right of the Government of the United States of America to assert a claim under international law in its sovereign capacity, as distinct from any rights it may have as the Issuer pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Article. No Coinsurer shall be entitled to the benefits of this Agreement unless it is acting through, or its interests have been assigned to, the Issuer.

ARTICLE 3

(a) Amounts in the currency of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, including cash, accounts, credits, instruments or otherwise, acquired by the Issuer (or by the Issuer and any Coinsurer) upon making a payment, or upon the exercise of its rights as a creditor, in connection with any Investment Support for a project in the Democratic Republic of East Timor, shall be accorded treatment in the territory of the Democratic Republic of East Timor no less favorable as to use and conversion than the treatment to which such funds would have been entitled in the hands of the person or entity from which such amounts were acquired.

(b) Such currency and credits may be transferred to any person or entity and upon such transfer shall be freely available for use by such person or entity in the territory of the Democratic Republic of East Timor in accordance with its laws.

ARTICLE 4

(a) Any dispute between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor regarding the interpretation of this Agreement or which, in the opinion of either party hereto, presents a question of international law arising out of any project or activity for which Investment Support has been provided shall be resolved, insofar as possible, through negotiations between the two Governments. If, six months following a request for negotiations hereunder, the two Governments have not resolved the dispute, the dispute, including the question of whether such dispute presents a question of international law, shall be submitted, at the initiative of either Government, to an arbitral tribunal for resolution in accordance with paragraph (b) of this Article.

(b) The arbitral tribunal referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be established and shall function as follows:

(i) Each Government shall appoint one arbitrator. These two arbitrators shall by agreement designate a president of the tribunal who shall be a citizen of a third state and whose appointment shall be subject to acceptance by the two Governments. The arbitrators shall be appointed within three months, and the president within six months, of the date of receipt of either Government's request for arbitration. If the appointments are not made within the foregoing time limits, either Government may, in the absence of any other agreement, request the Secretary-General of the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes to make the necessary appointment or appointments. Both Governments hereby agree to accept such appointment or appointments.

(ii) Decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be made by majority vote and shall be based on the applicable principles and rules of international law. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(iii) During the proceedings, each Government shall bear the expense of its arbitrator and of its representation in the proceedings before the tribunal, whereas the expenses of the president and other costs of the arbitration shall be paid in equal parts by the two Governments. In its award, the arbitral tribunal may reallocate expenses and costs between the two Governments.

(iv) In all other matters, the arbitral tribunal shall regulate its own procedures.

ARTICLE 5

(a) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature.

(b) This Agreement shall continue in force until six months from the date of a receipt of a note by which one Government informs the other of an intent to terminate this Agreement. In such event, the provisions of this Agreement shall, with respect to Investment Support provided while this Agreement was in force, remain in force so long as such Investment Support remains outstanding, but in no case longer than twenty years after the termination of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, on the 25th day of July, 2002, in duplicate, in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Peter S. Watson
President,
Overseas Private Investment Corporation

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR

His Excellency Mari Alkatiri
Prime Minister