**NEWS RELEASE**

**Tibar, Timor-Leste**

**24 January 2019**

**Timorese trainees secure places in the 2019 Electrical & Instrumentation Vocational Training Program– Global Training Standard Level 1 & 2**

Today at the Centro Nacional do Emprego e Formação Profissional (CNEFP), ConocoPhillips and its Joint Ventures, with the Government of Timor-Leste through the Secretária de Estado Para Formação e Emprego (SEFOPE) and Autoridade Nacional do Petróleo e Minerais (ANPM) and its implementing partners Cegelec Oil and Gas and CNEFP Tibar, welcomed thirty (30) Timorese trainees into the 2019 Electrical and Instrumentation Vocational Training program with Global Training Standard Level 1 and 2.

Following the successful implementation of the 2018 program, which saw the first eighteen (18) Timorese trainees go on to industry placements and employment, the parties have agreed to conduct a second twelve (12) month program with three (3) months of theory and nine (9) months of practical in both disciplines, which commences at CNEFP Tibar today.

The second group of trainees were selected from more than six hundred (600) applications from candidates across various universities and disciplines, following a wide-ranging advertising campaign across the country. Many of the young Timorese took part in a comprehensive selection process with thirty (30) being selected to participate in the 3-month foundational course training program.

The program is designed to provide young Timorese with the opportunity to gain valuable technical skills and knowledge in Electrical and Instrumentation maintenance. The two year pilot program is funded by ConocoPhillips and Bayu-Undan Joint Venture Partners through the Cost Recoverable Local Content Project.

ConocoPhillips Timor-Leste Country Manager José Lobato Gonçalves stated “the Bayu-Undan Joint Venture Partners were very pleased with the successful delivery of the first vocational training program, with all trainees going on to employment or internships with local organisations.”

“We’re delighted to support a second program in 2019. On behalf of the Bayu-Undan Joint Venture Partners, we wish all of the trainees every success for the upcoming program.”

Acting on behalf of the President of ANPM, Mr. Fernando da Silva “formally welcomes the successful Timorese trainees and congratulates each of them of being selected to pursue the training program and further expresses appreciation to ConocoPhillips and its Joint ventures for the commitment and continuous cooperation for the second batch of the program through Cost Recoverable Local Content Project of Bayu-Undan.

“The ANPM, on behalf of the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals is committed to continuously working with oil and gas companies and service providers and all the relevant stakeholders, to creating more opportunities to better prepare the selected Timor-Leste Nationals to gain important skills and knowledge necessary for future employment in oil and gas industry and other industries where opportunities arise”.

To the students, I wish you all the best in your studies and ensure a successful completion of studies in this rare opportunity in our country, said Mr. da Silva

H.E. Mr. Julião da Silva “appreciates this program as it prepares Timorese with the International Training Standard which is required by both domestic and foreign labor markets. His Excellency expresses his appreciation to the great cooperation among the National Petroleum and Minerals Authority (ANPM), ConocoPhillips, Cegelec Oil and Gas and Tibar National Center of Employment and Vocational Training (CNEFP) for continuing this second phase program on Electrical and Instrumentation Vocational Training for Level 1 and 2. His Excellency highlights the importance of promoting and encouraging more similar training programs to provide more accessible and affordable training opportunities for more and more Timorese based on industry’s needs.

This is considered as a pilot project which could potentially be expanded to other sectors and industries.”

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