## Timor-Leste (East Timor) - First stamp issues By K.K.Swamianthan

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is an island country in south Asia was a Portugal colony since 16<sup>th</sup> centaury, later invaded by Indonesia in 1975. During 1999 for UN sponsored referendum major East Timorese voted for Independence. UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) managed for about 2.5 years till its official Independence on 20.05.2002. UNTAET issued 2 stamps during their tenure, one for domestic and another one for International post. Country name is mentioned as "Timor Lorosae" in Local Tetum Language. (FDC shown partial ).

On the Independence Day (20.05.2002), the first stamps of the new nation featuring traditional crocodile design, palm wreaths, coffee harvest and flag of the country was issued. Unique feature of the FDC is, its look as the country's flag. First day special cancellation done at Capital Dili.



UNPA Flag-coin series with, Timor-Leste stamp shown. Country currency is US dollar

Note :UNPA Flag-coin series is a minisheet of 8 countries, only Timor-Leste stamp shown.



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