

Labadain Chat: AI for Tetun Speakers

An AI Prototype for Digital Inclusion in Timor-Leste

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Fundasaun Hadomi Timor

February 26, 2026
Salaun HAK, Farol
Dili, Timor-Leste



Labadain

My Profile

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- 2021–2025 | FEUP, Portugal**
 - PhD in Informatics Engineering
- 2011–2013 | FCUP, Portugal**
 - Master's in Computer Science
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 - Bachelor's in Informatics Engineering
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Gabriel de Jesus

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Labadain Chat

Overview

Jan 2026: Labadain LIX-R361 – Agentic AI
Evaluated task success and user satisfaction

Labadain Chat: A Conversational Agent for the Tetun Language

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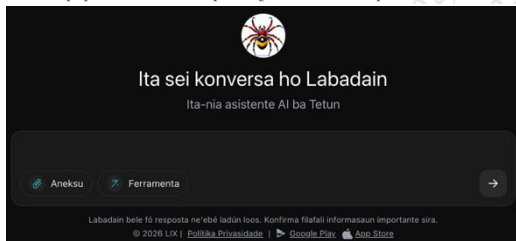
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Abstract

Large language model (LLM)-based conversational assistants are designed for general-purpose conversation tasks and are primarily optimized for high-resource languages. Although these systems support some low-resource languages (LRLs), their responses often fall short of user expectations. Consequently, speakers of LRLs remain marginalized and unable to fully benefit from advances in LLMs. These challenges underscore the need for targeted, language-specific solutions that can effectively serve underrepresented language communities. This study presents Labadain Chat, a conversational agent for Tetun, a low-resource language spoken by over 932,000 people in Timor-Leste. We adapt existing LLMs to Tetun

1 Introduction

Large language model (LLM)-powered conversational assistants, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and Perplexity, have fundamentally reshaped information access, enabling tasks such as question answering, summarization, multi-step reasoning, and complex problem solving [1, 28]. Although these systems improve access to information for many users, they continue to present significant challenges for speakers of low-resource languages (LRLs) due to inconsistent performance, data scarcity, and linguistic bias [3, 18]. Consequently, these communities remain marginalized, emphasizing the need for targeted, language-specific solutions to enable equitable access to information.



Platform: <https://www.labadain.com>

Labadain Timor-Leste

Hafasil ita-nia moris ho Labadain, assistente intelijénsia artifiçial hosi Timor News.

Ita-boot presija login hodi bele utiliza Labadain:

- Introdús ita-nia utilizadór no password ho loloos.
- Karik ita-nia konta seidauk iha, karrega butaun rejistu nian hodi kria ida.
- Karik ita haluha password, karrega iha butaun reset password hodi hetan fall foun ida.

Utilizadór

Password

Login

Platform: <https://old.labadain.com>

Jan 2024: Labadain R361 – Conversational Assistant Studied user's search behavior, engagement, and Intent

Insights into LLM-Based Conversational Search: A Study of Tetun-Speaking Users' Search Behavior

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Abstract

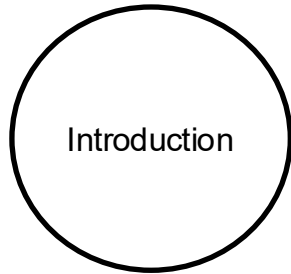
Advancements in large language model (LLM)-based conversational assistants have transformed search experiences into more natural and context-aware dialogues that resemble human conversation. However, limited access to interaction log data hinders a deeper understanding of their real-world usage. To address this gap, we analyzed 16,952 prompt logs from 904 unique users of Labadain Chat, an LLM-based conversational assistant designed for Tetun speakers, to uncover patterns in user search behavior, engagement, and intent. Our findings show that most users (98.87%) spent between one and five minutes per session, with an average of 43 unique daily users. The majority (93.97%) submitted multiple prompts per session, with an average session duration of 16.9 minutes. Most users (95.22%) were based in Timor-Leste, with education and science (28.75%) and health (28.00%) being the most searched topics. We compared our findings with a study on Google Bard logs in English, revealing similar search characteristics—including engagement duration, command-based instructions, and requests for specific assistance.

1 Introduction

Conversational search refers to user-friendly dialogues between humans and machines, whether spoken or written, aimed at satisfying information needs [3, 4, 21, 29]. With the advent of LLM-based conversational assistants, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT¹, Google's Gemini², Anthropic's Claude³, and similar AI tools, such dialogues have become more natural and context-aware, closely resembling human conversation. These systems' ability to process unstructured language, handle complex queries, and support multi-turn interactions has made search more seamless and intuitive. Furthermore, these developments demand a deeper understanding of user behavior, providing deeper insights into search behavior, engagement, and intent. These insights are crucial for refining LLM-based conversational systems to provide more personalized and effective interactions, ultimately enhancing the search experience [19, 31]. Despite these advancements, limited access to interaction log data hinders understanding of how these systems are used [25]. This challenge is especially pronounced in underrepr-

Research publication available (DOI: [10.1145/3731120.3744596](https://doi.org/10.1145/3731120.3744596))

Outline



Introduction

- AI Background
- Do LLMs truly support Tetun?



Labadain Chat

- Labadain R361
- Labadain LIX-R361



Opportunities
and Challenges

- Opportunities
- Challenges



Conclusion
and Future
Directions

- Conclusion
- Future Directions

Introduction

Introduction

AI Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is **not new**. It has existed since the 1950s. The term **“Artificial Intelligence”** was coined in 1956.

For decades, AI remained primarily in:

- 01 Research **laboratories**.
- 02 **Expert** systems.
- 03 **Specialized** industrial applications.

AI was powerful, but not accessible to the public.

A PROPOSAL FOR THE
DARTMOUTH SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECT
ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

J. McCarthy, Dartmouth College
M. L. Minsky, Harvard University
N. Rochester, I.B.M. Corporation
C.E. Shannon, Bell Telephone Laboratories

August 31, 1955

Source: <http://jmc.stanford.edu/articles/dartmouth/dartmouth.pdf>

Introduction

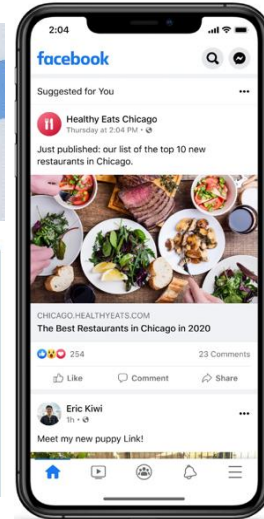
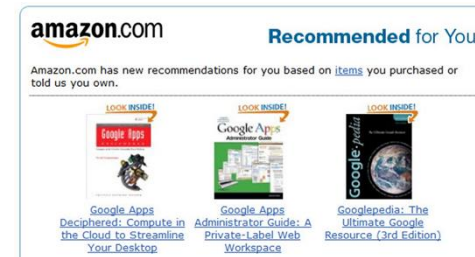
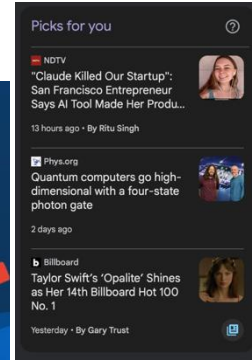
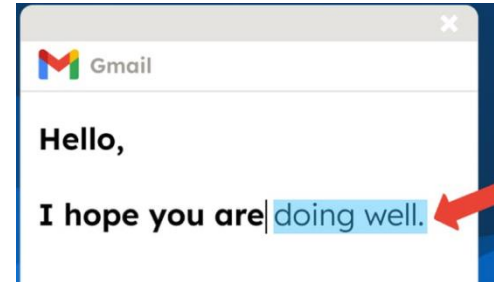
AI Background

Practical examples of “previous” AI applications

Examples include:

- 01 Autocompletion and machine translation.
- 02 Spam filtering and news feed ranking.
- 03 Product, movie, and news recommendations.

AI was present in everyday tools, but mostly invisible.



Introduction

AI Background



What has **Changed?**

Large language models (LLMs) have transformed how human interact with AI.

Introduction

AI Background

Large language models (LLMs):

- 01 Enable natural language conversation.
- 02 Not require technical expertise.
- 03 Make AI accessible to everyday users.

This innovation creates an opportunity for AI system that communicate in Tetun.

Examples of LLM-powered applications:



Introduction

Do LLMs Truly Support Tetun?

If AI can now communicate in human language

Can it communicate effectively and accurately in Tetun?

This technological shifts creates a strategic opportunity to:

- Build AI systems that support Tetun.
- Reduce linguistic barriers to digital access.
- Ensure Timor-Leste is not excluded from the AI revolution.

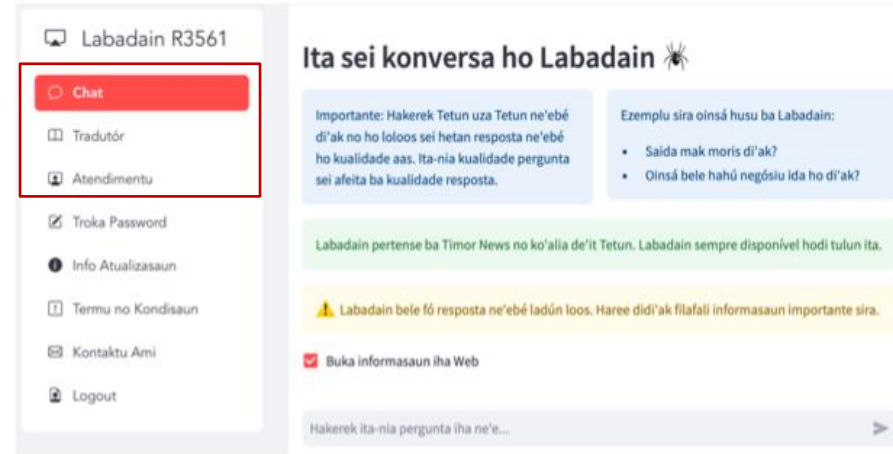
Labadain Chat

Labadain Chat

Labadain R361 – Initial Version

Core functionalities:

- 01 Open-domain conversational AI.
- 02 Translate to/from Tetun.
- 03 Chat with your own documents.



Platform: <https://old.labadain.com>

Research objective:

To study users' search behavior, engagement, and intent.

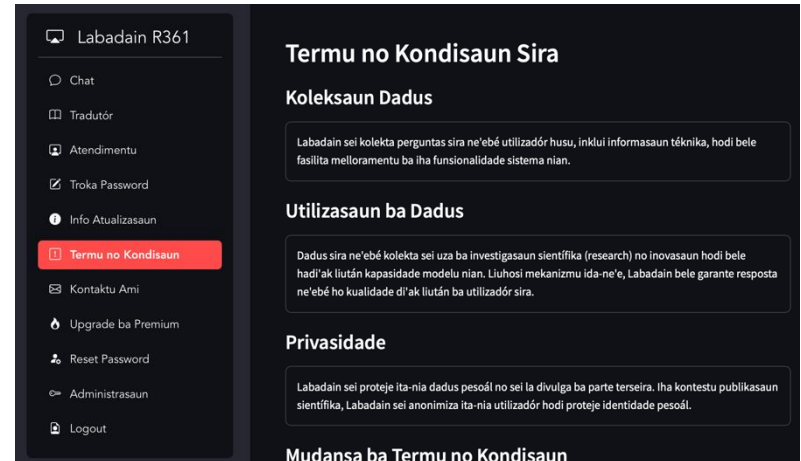
Labadain Chat

Labadain R361 – Initial Version

To achieve the goal:

01 We collected **user search queries** and **technical interaction data**.

02 Data collection followed **established terms and conditions**.



Labadain Chat

Labadain R361 – Initial Version

The study analyzed:

- 01 16,592 queries.
- 02 904 unique users.
- 03 July–October 2024.

Insights into LLM-Based Conversational Search: A Study of Tetun-Speaking Users' Search Behavior

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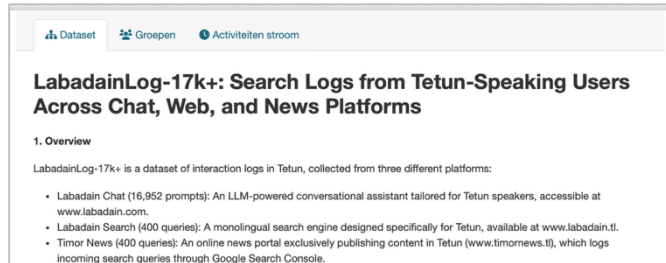
Abstract

Advancements in large language model (LLM)-based conversational assistants have transformed search experiences into more natural and context-aware dialogues that resemble human conversation. However, limited access to interaction log data hinders a deeper understanding of their real-world usage. To address this gap, we analyzed 16,952 prompt logs from 904 unique users of Labadain Chat, an LLM-based conversational assistant designed for Tetun speakers, to uncover patterns in user search behavior, engagement, and intent. Our findings show that most users (29.87%) spent between one and

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Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3731120.3744596>



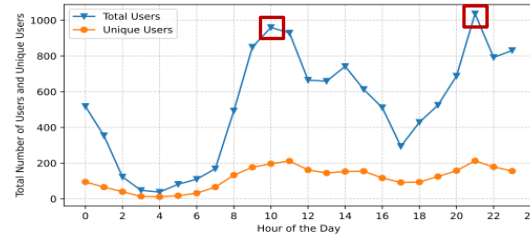
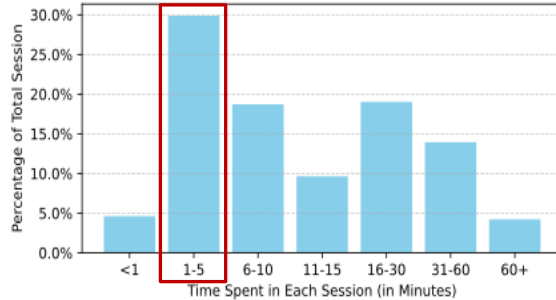
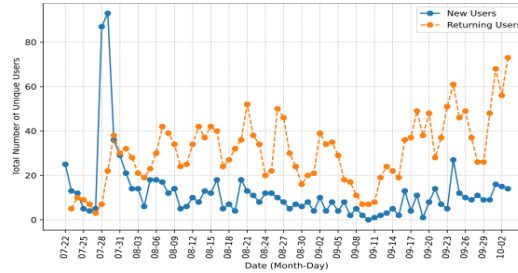
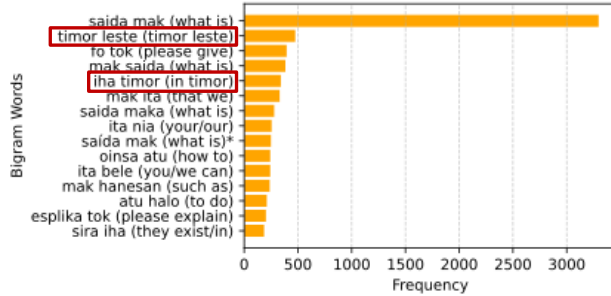
The screenshot shows a dataset page with the following content:

- Dataset Groepen Activiteiten stroom
- LabadainLog-17k+: Search Logs from Tetun-Speaking Users Across Chat, Web, and News Platforms**
- 1. Overview**
- LabadainLog-17k+ is a dataset of interaction logs in Tetun, collected from three different platforms:
 - Labadain Chat (16,952 prompts): An LLM-powered conversational assistant tailored for Tetun speakers, accessible at www.labadain.com.
 - Labadain Search (400 queries): A monolingual search engine designed specifically for Tetun, available at www.labadain.tl.
 - Timor News (400 queries): An online news portal exclusively publishing content in Tetun (www.timornews.tl), which logs incoming search queries through Google Search Console.

Dataset: <https://doi.org/10.25747/X2DK-5Y06>

Labadain Chat

Labadain R361 – Initial Version



Topic	L. Chat	L. Search	Timor News
Education/Science	28.75%	16.75%	11.25%
Health	28.00%	16.50%	12.25%
Social/Culture	13.75%	11.75%	3.25%
Research/Academia	6.75%	4.00%	3.75%
Politic/Government	2.50%	7.50%	6.00%
Job vacancy	0.00%	3.50%	7.25%
Economy/Finance	1.00%	6.75%	2.75%
Agriculture/Environment	6.50%	2.00%	1.75%
Law/Justice	0.75%	3.75%	1.75%
Language/Translation	2.00%	4.25%	1.50%
Computer science	3.75%	3.00%	1.25%
Personal	0.50%	2.50%	3.25%
Porn	0.00%	0.25%	2.00%
Sport	0.75%	1.00%	0.50%
Holiday/Travel	0.25%	0.50%	0.75%
Entertainment	0.00%	0.50%	0.75%
Other	4.75%	15.75%	40.00%

The results demonstrate significant social demand for AI in Tetun.

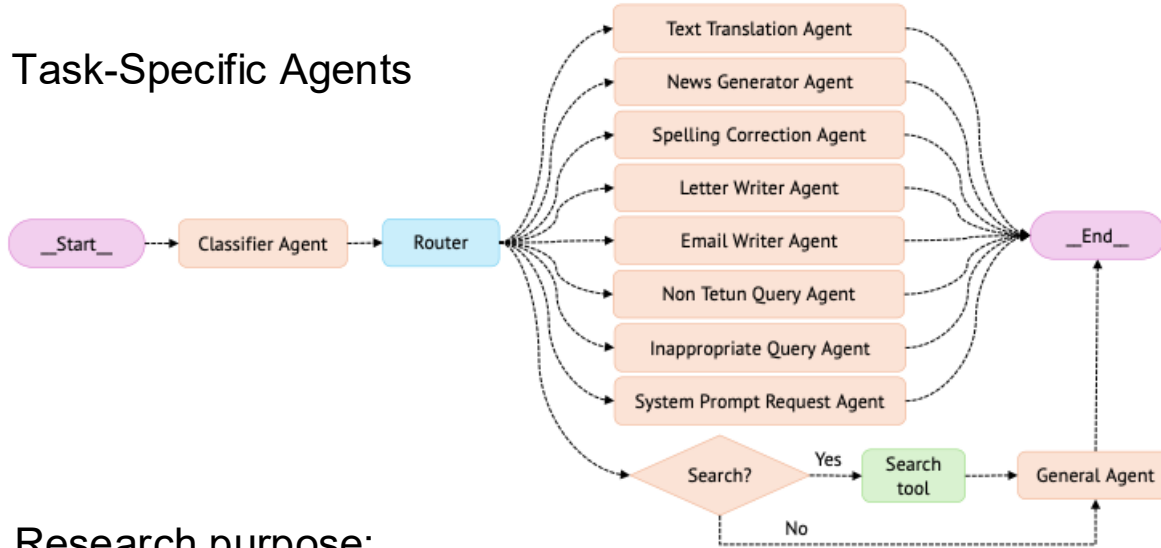
Paper: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3731120.3744596>

Labadain **LIX-R361** – Agentic AI

Labadain Chat

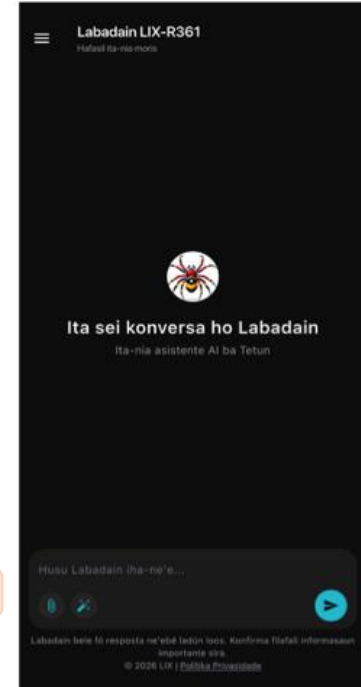
Labadain LIX-R361 – Current Version

Task-Specific Agents



Research purpose:

To study **task success** (objective utility) and measure **user satisfaction** (perceived usefulness).



Labadain Chat

Labadain LIX-R361 – Current Version

User Study

The study analyzed 8,000+ queries derived from Labadain R361 and Labadain LIX-R361:

01 A total of 60 representative queries selected by three annotators.

02 Compared Labadain LIX-R36 to Labadain R361 and ChatGPT.

Labadain Chat: A Conversational Agent for the Tetun Language

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1 Introduction

Large language model (LLM)-powered conversational assistants, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and Perplexity, have fundamentally reshaped information access, enabling tasks such as question answering, summarization, multi-step reasoning, and complex problem solving [1, 28]. Although these systems improve access to information for many users, they continue to present significant challenges for speakers of low-resource languages (LRLs) due to inconsistent performance, data scarcity, and linguistic bias [3, 18]. Consequently, these communities remain marginalized, emphasizing the need for targeted, language-specific solutions to enable equitable access to information.

Tetun-speaking users face similar challenges, as LLM-based assistants provide limited support for the language, restricting users' ability to access information and benefit from AI-powered services. To address these gaps, we present **Labadain Chat**, a conversational agent developed for Tetun speakers. The system implements a practical, language-specific prompting strategy that adapts existing LLMs to Tetun within an agentic conversational framework. The agent's workflow is illustrated in Figure 1.



Dataset Groepen Activiteiten stream

LabadainLog-60: A Curated Tetun Query-Response Dataset for Conversational System Evaluation

1. Overview

LabadainLog-60 is a curated query dataset designed to evaluate and compare different conversational AI assistants for Tetun, derived from real user queries. It contains 60 queries selected from over 8,000 query log entries collected from two sources:

- **Labadain Chat** (<https://www.labadain.com>): 2,101 entries collected from January 1–27, 2026
- **Labadain Old** (<https://old.labadain.com>): 6,210 entries collected from daily log files across three randomly selected months in 2025.

Labadain Chat

Labadain LIX-R361 – Current Version

Assessment Results

Table 1: Task Success Rate and User Satisfaction for Labadain Chat (LBC), *Labadain Old* (LBO), and ChatGPT (CGPT).

Query Type	Task Success Rate			User Satisfaction		
	LBC	LBO	CGPT	LBC	LBO	CGPT
Fact-seeking	95%	73%	48%	4.60	3.35	2.60
Multi-turn	88%	65%	58%	4.05	2.75	2.80
Ambiguous	90%	58%	53%	4.25	3.10	3.10
Overall	91%	65%	53%	4.30	3.07	2.83

Inter-annotator agreement
Cohen's k = 0.67 (substantial agreement).

Out of 5

Inter-annotator agreement
Cohen's weighted k = 0.75 (substantial agreement).

Key Finding:

Language-specific LLM customization **significantly** improves **task success rates, user satisfaction, and interaction quality.**

Labadain Chat

Labadain LIX-R361: Use Cases

Document Translation

Education and Training

Removing barriers to access to education and ensuring that all children and young people have access to quality education, regardless of their social and economic status and where they live, is a priority strategy of the Government. Access to quality education should never be a privilege of a few, but, on the contrary, education should be an inclusive instrument that allows levelling the differences in socio-economic opportunities, thus being possible to promote the equitable development of the Nation.

Education is a fundamental right of the citizen and the primary tool for social and economic development and creating a healthy and prosperous society.

By 2028, Timor-Leste aims to achieve a better quality education with broader access opportunities for all, being an education that can honestly respond to the needs of the labour market, contribute to the reduction of unemployment through lifelong learning, and essentially break the vicious circle of intergenerational poverty. The education to be achieved will promote understanding to serve as a basis for citizens to become active in sustainable development, in the consolidation of the Nation and to apply their human potential and creativity in favour of innovation.

To achieve this result, the Programme of the 9th Constitutional Government in Education reflects a coherent and, at the same time, integrated programme. It is stated through this programme that the natural way to achieve the expected results sustainably is through the effective participation of the educational community and the active contribution of the various public and private entities (including civil society and the private sector) based on a firm



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Tradús ba Tetun!

Edukasaun no Formasaun

Hamoos barreira sira ba asesu ba edukasaun no aseguira katak labarik no joven sira hotu hetan asesu ba edukasaun ho kualidade, la haree ba sira-nia estatutu sosiál no ekonómiku no fatin ne'ebé sira hela bá, nu'udar estratejia priorítaria Governu nian. Asesu ba edukasaun ho kualidade laabe sai priviléjiu ba ema uitoan de'it, maibé, pelu kontráriu, edukasaun tenke sai instrumentu inkluzivu ida-ne'ebé permite atu nivela diferensa sira iha oportunidade sosiál-ekonómika, nune'e bele promove dezenvolvimentu ekuitativu Nasaun nian.

Edukasaun nu'udar direitu fundamentál sidadaun nian no instrumentu primáriu ba dezenvolvimentu sosiál no ekonómiku no kria sociedade ida-ne'ebé saudavel no próspera.

To'o 2028, Timor-Leste pretende atinje edukasaun ho kualidade di'ak liu ho oportunidade asesu ne'ebé luan liu ba ema hotu, nu'udar edukasaun ida-ne'ebé bele responde ho lolooos ba nesidade merkadu traballu nian, kontribui ba redusaun dezempregu liuhusi aprendizajen ba moris tomak, no esensialmente, hapara sírkulu visiozu kiak interjerasionál nian. Edukasaun ne'ebé sei atinje sei promove komprensaun atu serbi nu'udar baze ba sidadaun sira atu sai ativu iha dezenvolvimentu sustentável, iha konsolidasaun Nasaun nian no atu aplika sira-nia potencial umanu ba kria sidade ba futuru nasaun nian.

Labadain Chat

Labadain LIX-R361: Use Cases

News Generator

Ró-biblioteka internasionál Doulos Hope, opera hosi organizasaun umantária GBA Ships (Gute Bücher für Alle - Livru di'ak ba ema Hotu), ohin, loron 15 fulan-janeiru 2026, to'o iha Portu Dili, hodi marka vizita dahuluk hosi ró ida-ne'e mai Timor-Leste. Ró ne'e sei hela iha pais ne'e to'o loron 29 fulan-janeiru.

Entre loron 16 no 28 fulan-janeiru, Doulos Hope loke ba públiku ho hala'o feira internasionál livru nian ida iha ró laran, iha Portu Dili, hodi fó asesu ba livru sira no promove ábitu leitura iha populasaun nia leet, liuliu labarik no joven sira.

Maski ida-ne'e hanesan vizita ba dahuluk hosi Doulos Hope mai Timor-Leste, país ne'e simu ona ró GBA Ships ida seluk, ne'ebé iha momentu ne'ebá koñesidu ho naran MV Doulos, durante para iha Dili iha fulan-novemburu tinan 2008. Iha okazian ne'ebá, Primeiru-Ministru, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, destaca misaun ró-livraria ba comunidade sira, hodi hateten: "Ami rekoñese ita-boot sira-nia misaun dame no domin nian. Ita koko atu harii país, Estadu no povu. Labarik sira tenke kompriende ita-boot sira-nia misaun, tanba ita moris iha mundu ida ne'ebé presiza dame."

Doulos Hope hanesan biblioteka no livraria namele ida ne'ebé halo vijajen ba portu sira iha nasaun oioin, liuliu iha Ázia, hodi lori livrus no promove atividade edukativa no kultural sira.

Molok ne'e kria hanesan ró kruzeiru ida, maibé iha tinan 2023 adapta ba objetivu ida-ne'e no iha tripulasaun internasionál ida hosi voluntáriu sira.

Durante nia permanénsia iha Dili, feira livru ne'e disponibila livru rihun 5 resin, inklui literatura infantil, livru edukativu, obra inspirasaun kristaun no livru divulgasaun jerál. Inisiativa ne'e atu promove mós kontaktu interkultural entre tripulasaun no comunidade lokál.

Feira ne'e loke hosi loron Tersa to'o Sábado, hosi tuku 10:00 dadeer to'o tuku 5:30 lokraik, no iha loron-domingu hosi tuku 1:00 lokraik to'o tuku 7:00 kalan. Ró ne'e taka ba públiku iha loron-segunda sira tanba manutensaun. Iha loron abertura, 16 fulan-janeiru, oras maka hosi tuku 1:00 lokraik to'o tuku 5:30 lokraik. Tama ba ró laran vizitante ida sei selu sentavu 20, gratuita ba vizitante sira ho idade menus hosi tinan 18 no liu hosi tinan 65.

Input doc: *example.pdf*



Prodús lai notísia bazeia ba dokumentu ne'e!



Títulu: Ró-Biblioteka Doulos Hope Vizita Dili ho Feira Livru Internasionál

Lead: Ró-biblioteka Doulos Hope to'o iha Portu Dili, sei loke feira livru internasionál ba públiku to'o loron 28 Janeiru hodi promove ábitu leitura iha comunidade.

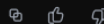
Konteúdu: Dili, 16 Janeiru 2026 – Ró-biblioteka internasionál, Doulos Hope, ne'ebé jere hosi organizasaun umantária GBA Ships, hahú ona nia vizita dahuluk iha Portu Dili. Ró ne'e sei loke feira livru internasionál ida ba públiku durante loron sanulu-resin-tolu, hahú hosi ohin to'o loron 28 fulan-janeiru, ho objetivu atu haburas ábitu leitura iha comunidade, liuliu entre labarik no joven sira.

Feira ne'e sei apresenta títulu livru liu rihun lima, ne'ebé kobre área oioin hanesan literatura infantil, siénsia, livru inspirasionál, no referénsia jerál. Vizitante sira bele tama ba ró hosi loron tersa to'o sábado, tuku 10:00 to'o 17:30, no domingu tuku 13:00 to'o 19:00, ho presu billete sentavu 20, maibé sei gratuita ba labarik sira ho idade tinan 18 mai kraik no ferik-katuas ho idade tinan 65 ba leten.

Maski ne'e vizita dahuluk hosi Doulos Hope, Timor-Leste simu ona ró hosi organizasaun GBA Ships iha tinan 2008, liuhosi ró MV Doulos. Iha vizita anteriór ne'e, Primeiru-Ministru iha tempu ne'ebá, Kay Gusmão, fó sai importánsia hosi misaun ró nian hodi dehan, "Ita koko atu harii país, Estadu no povu. Labarik sira tenke kompriende ita-boot sira-nia misaun, tanba ita moris iha mundu ida ne'ebé presiza dame". Doulos Hope rasik iha tripulasaun voluntáriu internasionál ne'ebé, liuhosi feira livru no interasaun, hakarak promove mós troka kultural ho comunidade lokál sira iha Dili.

Kategoria: Kultura.

Etiketas: Doulos Hope, Livru, Leitura.



Labadain Chat

Labadain LIX-R361: Use Cases

General-Purpose Conversation

Oinsá situausaun ekonomia iha Timor iha 2025?

Labadain: Obrigadu ba ita-nia pergunta kona-ba situausaun ekonomia iha Timor-Leste iha 2025. Bazeia ba informasaun ne'ebé ha'u bele hetan, posivel katak:

1. Ekonomia Timor-Leste sei kontinua depende ba fundu petróleu (FP) no rendimentu hosi setor públiku. Maske nune'e, governu sei esforsa-an atu diversifika ekonomia liuhosi investimentu iha setór agrikultura, peska, turismu, no indústría. [1]
2. Investimentu iha infraestrutura, transportasaun, no komunikasaun sei kontinua hodi hametin kreximentu ekonomia. Konferénsia Internasionál kona-ba Investimentu iha Timor-Leste sei ajuda hetan investimentu estranjeiru. [2]
3. Setór agrikultura, peska, no pekuária sei hetan atensaun liután hodi hametin seguransa aihan no redús malnutrisaun. Maibe produsaun sei sei ki'ik. [3]
4. Organizasaun internasionál sira hanesan Oxfam sei kontinua servisu ho parseiru lokál atu promove ekonomia ne'ebé inkluzivu no sustentável. [4]
5. Dezafiu sira hanesan COVID-19 sei kontinua afeta situausaun sosio-ekonomika, maibe governu sei kontinua hetan apoiu husi ONU atu hasoru dezafiu sira-ne'e. [5]

Iha jerál, ekonomia Timor-Leste sei kontinua iha faze transisaun, ho esforsu atu diversifika no hametin setór produtivu sira, maibé sei depende ba fundu petróleu no rendimentu públiku.

Letter Writing Assistance

Hakerek lai karta aplikasaun ba vaga Finansas iha BNCTL!

Joaquim da Costa Rua dos Mártires da Pátria, Bidau Dili, Timor-Leste
joaquim.costa@email.com

05 Marsu 2026

Ba: Sr. Miguel Freitas Xefe Rekursu Umanu Banku Nasionál Komérsiu Timor-Leste (BNCTL)
Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato, Mandarín Dili, Timor-Leste hr@bnctl.tl

Asuntu: Kandidatura ba Pozisaun Finansas

Estimadu Señor(a),

Liuhosi karta ida-ne'e, ha'u hakarak hato'o ha'u-nia kandidatura ba pozisaun Finansas iha Banku Nasionál Komérsiu Timor-Leste (BNCTL), ne'ebé anunsia liuhosi pájina ofisiál BNCTL nian. Ho esperiénsia serbisu tinan lima iha área finansas no kontabilidade, ha'u fiar katak ha'u-nia abilidade téknika no kompromisu bele fó kontribuisaun signifíkativa ba ita-boot sira-nia ekípa.

Durante ha'u-nia serbisu nu'udar profesionál finansas, ha'u dezenvolve ona kompeténsia sira tuirmai ne'e:

- Análize Finanseira: Kapasidade atu prepara no analiza relatóriu finanseiru mensál no anual hodi apoia prosesu foti desizaun.
- Jestaun Orsamentál: Esperiência iha dezenvolvimentu no monitorizasaun orsamentu hodi asegura efisiénsia iha utilizasaun rekursu.
- Kontabilidade Jerál: Koñesimentu kle'an kona-ba prinsípiu kontabilidade, inklui jestaun konta pagar no reseber, no rekonsiliasaun bankária.

Ha'u mak ema ida-ne'ebé orientadu ba detallu, organizado, no iha abilidade analítica ne'ebé forte. Ha'u mós iha kapasidade atu serbisu di'ak iha ekípa no iha ambiente ne'ebé dinámiku. Hala'entun atu ajuda no adaptar ba prosedimentu BNCTL nian.

Husu Labadain iha-ne'e...

Aneksu Ferramenta

Labadain bele fó resposta ne'ebé ladún loos. Konfirma filafali informasaun importante sira.
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Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

AI for Public Services

Government AI Assistants:

- 01 A single chatbot to access all public services (learn from **Estonia**).
- 02 AI assistants across government website to streamline service access (learn from **Singapore**).

Discover the e-governance technologies of Estonia

Find out how Estonia is using data and artificial intelligence to empower its digital government.



Source: <https://www.kratid.ee/en>

Empowering Singapore's public officers with AI

Higher quality work, faster decisions, and better citizen experiences with our free suite of products

Source: <https://pair.gov.sg>

Opportunities

AI for Education

AI for Learning and Teaching:



AI tutoring assistants that provide personalized learning support for students.



Teacher support tools that assist with lesson planning, content development, and exam preparation.

Opportunities

AI for Healthcare

Health Information Assistant:



AI tools for triage support and appointment management.



Health awareness campaigns.

And many more...

Challenges



Tetun **data** scarcity and quality.



Limited AI experts in Timor-Leste.



Ethical AI and **data privacy** guidelines.



Long-term **sustainability** and **funding** for language technology **innovation**.

Conclusion and Future Directions

Conclusion

- 01 Tetun speakers **actively use AI** when it is accessible in their language.
- 02 **Language-specific** customization significantly improves performance.
- 03 **Localized AI** systems can drive **digital inclusion** in Timor-Leste.

Labadain Chat demonstrates that building **AI for Tetun** is both **technically feasible** and **socially impactful**.

Future Directions

- 01 Expand Tetun linguistic resources.
- 02 Investigate **domain-specific** agents for Tetun.
- 03 **Encourage** open collaboration and **data sharing**.



Thank You

Labadain Chat: AI for Tetun Speakers

An AI Prototype for Digital Inclusion in Timor-Leste

Gabriel de Jesus, PhD

Affiliated Researcher, **INESC TEC**
Founder and Director, **Timor News**
Creator of **Labadain**

Fundasaun Hadomi Timor

February 26, 2026
Salaun HAK, Fatuhada
Dili, Timor-Leste



Labadain