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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque to Host Professional Fellows from East Timor

DUBUQUE, Iowa – From May 10 to June 1, Dubuque will host two emerging leaders from the country of Timor-Leste, commonly known as East Timor, participating in the U.S. Department of State's Professional Fellows Program, a two-way exchange embracing the power of individuals to find solutions to common challenges.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA), with funding from the U.S. Department of State, is conducting a Legislative Process and Governance Professional Fellows program for participants from Timor-Leste, an underdeveloped country in Southeast Asia. Angela de Jesus, Assistant of Peace and Capacity Building and Transparency with Community Development Interest, and Dulce Guterres Junior, Director of Operations for the National Program for Suco Development, will visit with Dubuque leaders to learn first-hand how issues in their field are addressed in the United States. The program's goal is to provide experiences for government decision makers with interest in legislative processes and governance practices, accountability, and transparency.

During their time in Dubuque, de Jesus and Guterres Junior will meet with representatives from city and county organizations, private non-profits, education, state and federal government, as well as private sector. The focus of these meetings is to learn about local legislative processes and community engagement.

Dubuque was one of the original pilot communities selected by ICMA to participate in the Professional Fellows Program in 2011 and has been the only community nationwide to participate in the program for four consecutive years. Dubuque has hosted Fellows from China (three times), Australia, New Zealand, and now East Timor as part of this program. The program brings emerging leaders from around the world to the United States for intensive fellowships designed to

broaden their professional expertise and provide interaction between American and foreign participants. Participants spend up to six weeks in the U.S., during which they receive hands-on exposure to various levels of government through carefully designed full-time fellowships in national legislative offices, state legislatures, state or local government offices, advocacy groups, or other relevant organizations. At the conclusion of their fellowships, participants travel to Washington, DC, for a three-day Professional Fellows Congress. In total, 200 leaders from more than 45 countries and territories will participate in the Professional Fellows Program this May and June.

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