

Title	Creating a global community of support for students learning Portuguese in Timor-Leste
Sub Title	
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Publisher	慶應義塾大学大学院メディアデザイン研究科
Publication year	2010
Jtitle	
JaLC DOI	
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Notes	修士学位論文. 2010年度メディアデザイン学 第66号
Genre	Thesis or Dissertation
URL	<a href="https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=KO40001001-00002010-0066">https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=KO40001001-00002010-0066</a>

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KMD-80836643

**Master's Thesis**

**Creating A Global Community of Support  
for Students Learning Portuguese in Timor-Leste**

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March 1, 2011

Graduate School of Media Design  
Keio University

A Master's Thesis  
submitted to Graduate School of Media Design,  
Keio University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
MASTER of MediaDesign

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Thesis Committee:

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# Creating A Global Community of Support for Students Learning Portuguese in Timor-Leste\*

Marlin Lao Tambowon

## Abstract

This research aims to create a global community of support for Portuguese-learning Timorese students by proposing a community-building design that utilize the available ICT infrastructure. The proposed design can provide the Timorese students more opportunities to practice Portuguese and supported by Portuguese speakers from around the world.

Based on the result of field research in Timor-Leste, the author proposed a design to create a global community of support using digital storytelling method and a website as the community platform. To implement this design, the author held a Portuguese digital storytelling project for Timorese students and created a website where the digital stories made by the students are viewable around the world and viewers can participate by giving comments on it or submitting their own digital stories. Through this project, the proposed design revealed the success parts which are the production of digital stories by Timorese students and the creation of communication platform, and yet to be improved-parts for future works which are delivering the feedback to Timorese students and maintaining the sustainability of the project by the local stakeholders.

Through this research, the first step in building a communication bridge between the Timorese students learning Portuguese and the Portuguese-speakers around the world has been taken. In the future, this community-building design may be a model to encourage students in learning a language, along with promoting global community cooperation in supporting language learning worldwide.

## Keywords:

Timor-Leste, Portuguese, global community of support, platform, digital storytelling

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\*Master's Thesis, Graduate School of Media Design, Keio University, KMD-80836643, March 1, 2011.