S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Heavy equipment / earthmoving operator

Operadór ekipamentu pezadu

Construction & building trades · ISCO-08 8342

Heavy equipment operators drive and control big machines that dig, move, level and press down earth, and that lay asphalt and concrete for roads. In Timor-Leste employers have named this one of the five hardest jobs to fill.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**No national course listed** The published list is incomplete
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Hard to fill** Enterprise survey 2017
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia: any job with an offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$217 / month** Average for all plant & machine operators in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Dig and move earth: Drive excavators and bulldozers with a bucket or blade; Dig trenches and holes for pipes and foundations; Load earth, sand and stone onto trucks.

Build roads and sites: Level ground with a grader; Press down soil and asphalt with a road roller; Spread concrete and asphalt with a paving machine.

Other machines: Run pile drivers that push posts into the ground; Run dredgers that dig under water; Run machines in mines and tunnels.

Care for the machine: Check oil, fuel, tyres and tracks before work; Clean the machine and do small repairs; Report faults to the mechanic.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 8342, Earthmoving and related plant operators.

WHERE YOU WORK

Roads and bridges (New roads, repairs, drains); Building sites (Foundations and site clearing); Ports and rivers (Dredging is also listed by the ILO); Quarries and mines (Digging and loading stone).

You sit in a cab most of the day, often in heat, dust and noise. Sites are often outside Dili, so you may live away from home for a while.

In 2017 earthmoving operators were among the five jobs with the most new hires, and among the jobs where companies hired the most foreign workers. 31 foreign earthmoving operators held work permits.

A skills study expects road, drain and bridge projects to need heavy equipment operators.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Staying alert for long hours, Judging space and distance, Using hands and feet together, Following safety rules, Teamwork on site.

You like: Big machines, Working outside, Building roads and places, Seeing the work grow each day.

You must be careful: a big machine can hurt people around it.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **No national certificate listed yet** · The published list of INDMO titles has no course for this job, and that list is incomplete.

Where to train, course length and licence rules: to confirm with INDMO and SEFOPE. The directory never shows a course or a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Construction labourer** · Entry job; Certificate I in General Construction
- **Heavy equipment operator** · Training path to confirm
- **Heavy machinery mechanic** · Repairs the machines (ISCO 7233)
- **Your own equipment hire business** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · There is no official programme that sends Timorese heavy equipment operators abroad yet. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer first.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

1. ILO, ISCO-08 unit group 8342 Earthmoving and related plant operators https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
2. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, pp. 12–17 and Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
3. SEJT, Labour Market Outlook No. 7, Feb 2018 (Enterprise & Skills Survey 2017; foreign work permits 2017) https://www.laohamutuk.org/DVD/2018/LMOFeb2018en.pdf
4. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
5. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/heavy-equipment-earthmoving-operator/?lang=en