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JOB PROFILE

# Process-plant operator (oil & gas)

Operadór planta prosesamentu (mina-rai no gás)

Petroleum, energy & engineering · ISCO-08 3134 / 3133

Process-plant operators run and watch the machines in oil refineries, gas plants and chemical plants. They control the process from a control room, check readings, take samples and keep the equipment working safely. The National Employment Strategy names downstream oil and gas as one of five priority economic pillars. The refinery and the gas plant are still plans, so treat this as a job for the future.

| | |
|---|---|
| TRAIN IN TIMOR | **No national course listed**<br>An oil and gas training centre in Suai was planned |
| COURSE LENGTH | **To confirm**<br>No published source yet |
| IN TIMOR | **Priority · future demand**<br>Downstream oil and gas |
| ABROAD | **No official programme yet**<br>Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer |
| PAY IN TIMOR | **US$320 / month**<br>Average for all technicians and associate professionals in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021) |

## WHAT YOU DO

**Control the process:** Run the plant from control panels and computers; Start up and shut down units and pumps; Adjust temperature, pressure and flow.

**Watch and check:** Read gauges, meters and screens; Take samples for testing; Record readings in the log.

**Maintain equipment:** Clean and look after pumps, valves and tanks; Find faults and report them; Help with repairs and inspections.

**Keep it safe:** Follow strict rules for gas, fire and chemicals; Wear protective equipment; Act fast on alarms and emergencies.

Based on the ILO descriptions of ISCO-08 unit groups 3134, Petroleum and natural gas refining plant operators, and 3133, Chemical processing plant controllers.

## WHERE YOU WORK

Refinery (The Betano refinery and petrochemical complex, still planned); Gas plant (A planned LNG plant for gas from Greater Sunrise); Suai logistics base (Includes a fuel storage park); Oil and gas fields (In the Timor Sea).

Plants run day and night, so you work long shifts. For the gas plant, the Government plans to upgrade south-coast airports for workers who fly in and fly out.

In 2023 the refinery was still waiting for its environmental licence, and the gas pipeline from Greater Sunrise was still being negotiated. The National Employment Strategy says downstream petroleum industries could create many jobs, but low technology and skills hold them back.

## IS IT FOR ME?

**You are good at:** Staying alert, Following procedures exactly, Maths and science, Understanding machines, Teamwork.

**You like:** Technology and machines, Big industrial sites, Shift work, Clear rules.

People who have worked in oil and gas gain skills that other industries also use, such as rigging, crane work, mechanical fitting, scaffolding, boiler making and welding. A trade like these keeps more doors open while the plants are not built yet.

## TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **No national certificate for plant operators listed yet** · The published list of INDMO titles has no plant operator course, and that list is incomplete.
- **Training centre for oil and gas operations, Suai** · Planned in 2011 in a polytechnic in Suai. Whether it runs now: to confirm.
- **Higher Polytechnic Institute of Engineering, Suai** · Planned in the Government programme 2023–2028. Courses: to confirm.
- **Certificate II in Metal Fabrication and Welding** · Related: an INDMO trade certificate with skills used in oil and gas

Whether the two Suai plans are the same institute: to confirm. Course length and fees: to confirm. The directory never shows a number without a source.

## WHERE IT LEADS

- **Welder or fitter** · Trade skills that oil and gas also use
- **Process-plant operator** · Learn on the job, in Timor-Leste or abroad
- **Control-room or shift supervisor** · Years of experience. Training path to confirm.
- **Chemical engineer** · With a university degree

## WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · No official programme recruits Timorese workers for this job 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 groups 3134 Petroleum and natural gas refining plant operators, and 3133 Chemical processing plant controllers https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
2. National Employment Strategy 2017–2030 (Government Resolution 44/2017), Box 3: five priority economic pillars; downstream petroleum https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/National-Employment-Strategy-2017-2030.pdf
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4. Government of Timor-Leste, Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030: development of human resources for the petroleum industry, Tasi Mane (Betano cluster) https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Timor-Leste-Strategic-Plan-2011-20301.pdf
5. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022: §3.1 transferable skills from the oil and gas industry, and Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
6. 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
7. 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/process-plant-operator/?lang=en