S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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

JOB PROFILE

Tais weaver / textile handicraft

Soru-na'in tais

Manufacturing & food processing · ISCO-08 7318

Tais is the traditional hand-woven textile of Timor-Leste. In 2021 UNESCO added it to its List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Textile handicraft workers use traditional techniques and patterns to make woven cloth, clothing and household goods.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**No national course listed** The list we have is incomplete
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**To confirm** No published demand data yet
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$276 / month** Average for all craft & trades workers in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Prepare the thread: Choose and prepare cotton and other fibres; Spin the fibres into thread; Dye the thread; tais uses cotton dyed with natural plants.

Weave: Set up the loom with the thread; Weave the cloth and its patterns by hand; Follow traditional patterns, or design new ones.

Finish the work: Embroider and decorate the cloth; Sew the cloth into clothing, bags and household goods; Check each piece for mistakes.

Sell your work: Decide your prices; Sell to customers, shops and markets; Write down what you buy and sell.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 7318, Handicraft workers in textile, leather and related materials, and on UNESCO's description of tais.

WHERE YOU WORK

At home (Weaving for yourself and your family); Weaving groups & cooperatives (The national plan names weaving among cooperative activities); Tais Market, Dili (Selling to visitors and local buyers); Craft shops & fairs (Selling finished pieces).

Weaving takes many hours of careful, patient work, often sitting at the loom. Making tais is traditionally a role for women, who pass the skills on to the next generation.

The government plans to make the Tais Market in central Dili one of the city's leading tourist sites, to value the work of its traders, and to add a museum area about how tais is made.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Patience, Careful work with your hands, Remembering patterns, Working with colours, Working steadily for long hours.

You like: Timorese culture and tradition, Making beautiful things, Working at home or in a group, Selling your own work.

Basic maths helps you work out how much thread you need and what price to ask.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Learn from experienced weavers** · Women pass tais skills on to the next generation.
- **No national certificate listed yet** · The published list of INDMO titles has no weaving course, and that list is incomplete.

The national development plan says Timor-Leste has a major craft skills base, including weaving tais, that can be the foundation for craft and design training. Courses, length and fees: to confirm.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Weaving learner** · Learn from an experienced weaver
- **Tais weaver** · Weave and sell your own pieces
- **Your own tais business or weaving group** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

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

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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/tais-weaver-textile-handicraft/?lang=en