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East Timor – “Bearers of Hope”: Screening of the Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival (DBGYFF)

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(ANS - Dili) - The worldwide screening of the “Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival” was scheduled for 18 and 19 November 2021. This was also the case in East Timor, where the Social Communication Office involved and gathered the students of St. Peter's Institute, accompanied by their teachers, the representatives of the National University of East Timor, and the young people of the youth centers based in Díli, to attend a special screening of the DBGYFF.

The event was held in the multifunctional hall of the "St Francis de Sales" Philosophical Institute in Díli-Comoro in the presence of about 60 people.

The first short film screened was *The Bearers of Hope*, the film produced by the Vice Province “St Callisto Caravario” (TLS) with their young people. The film, which was among the 110 short films finalists, also saw the awarding of the "BEST YOUNG FEMALE ACTRESS - Great Performance" award to Teresa Maria Dos Santos Da Cruzhernandez, and for this reason, it was a source of great pride for everyone.

This short film was based on the reality of East Timor and elsewhere, where due to Covid-19 and beyond, many people

die every day leaving their families in distress. After the first screening, all the spectators spontaneously applauded, recognizing the merit of challenging the spectators to be ambassadors of hope towards each other in this period of uncertainty.

After viewing a selection from the 110 films, all inspired by the theme of the Strenna of the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, for 2021, "Moved by hope", those gathered had the opportunity to reflect, discuss and share their own thoughts and ideas.

“Life has to go on. We have been ravaged by natural disasters and Covid-19 for the past 2 years, but life must go on. These films tell us to let ourselves be guided by God. He will not let us face these problems alone. Dealing with problems and difficulties doesn’t make us fall into despair,” said the young protagonist.

“I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Salesians for inviting us to this event. The films were truly instructive and formative, they enriched us, as well as fostering our sharing and reflections,” added Bem Vindo Sarmento.

The program concluded with a moment of sharing in the Post-Novitiate community, where discussions and sharing continued.