

### **Short Biography – Dr. Helder da Costa**



Dr. Helder da Costa is the General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat, based in Dili, Timor-Leste, providing services to 20 post-conflict countries around the world.

Dr. Da Costa was the g7+ sherpa during the Busan High Level Forum and represented the g7+ Constituency in the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in 2012-2014. He is one of the champions of the Building Blocks on “Conflict and Fragility” which is essentially “the New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States”.

Da Costa earned his PhD in Trade Policy at the School of International Applied Economics, the University of Adelaide, South Australia in 2001. He has over 20 years of management experience in the academic and development fields. Dr Da Costa’s professional career includes 6 years of senior posts with both the Asia New Zealand Foundation and Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) based in Wellington, New Zealand as a Tertiary Education Manager and the Asia Programme Manager overseeing 5 countries in Asia (Bhutan, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Timor-Leste).

Previously he was appointed as Senior Advisor on Aid Effectiveness for 5 years to the Ministry of Finance, Timor-Leste. He has also consulted for various international development agencies over the past 10 years including UNDP, UN, ADB, World Bank, AusAID and ACIAR Australia. He has contributed to refereed journals on development issues in Southeast Asia and Fragile States.