Minister for Sport and Recreation Karl Hampton today farewelled the eight young Territory athletes who have been selected to participate in the BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games.

The athletes were excited ahead of their departure to Brunei for the games and were looking forward to the international sporting event.

“For many of these athletes it will only will be their first time competing overseas but it will be their first time out of the country.” Mr Hampton said.

“I am sure these young Terrtiorians will proudly represent the Territory both on and off the sporting field.

“The BIMP-EAGA Games are an important opportunity for young athletes to further develop their skills in their chosen sport.

“They also provide young Terrtiorians with an opportunity to meet new friends and experience different cultures.

“The Northern Territory Government is proud to financially support these athletes to compete in the BIMP-EAGA games.”

BIMP-EAGA was launched in 1994 as a cooperative initiative by Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The BIMP-EAGA Sports Council then established the Friendship Games in 1996 to promote relationships through sport.

Northern Territory team members are: Daniel Parker (Tennis), Sam Giess (Tennis), Sarah Butler (Swimming), Tobias Barnes (Swimming), Jacob Modah (Badminton), Jamie Moriarty (Badminton), Aimee Mullins (Badminton) and Jodie Eniss (Badminton).

A full range of sports at the 2008 Games include: athletics, aquatics, badminton, futsal, sepak takraw, pencak silat and tennis.

The games will be held from 28 to 30 November at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

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