Territory to be home to Japanese Language and Cultural Centre

A Japanese Language and Cultural Centre will be established in Darwin next year following the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation by Essington School and the Tamagawa School and University in Tokyo today.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson witnessed the signing today at Tamagawa School and said the Centre would be established next year at the Essington International Senior College, located on Charles Darwin University’s Casuarina campus.

“This MOU puts the Territory ahead of the pack when it comes to preparing our students for future careers around the Asian pacific region,” Mr Henderson said.

“Language will be key advantage for Territory students wanting to do business with Asia and give them a running start on understanding the Asian pacific region.

“The economic future of Australia is closely tied to our Asian neighbours, and centres like this will become more important as we continue to move into the Asian Century.

“The Centre will be an important addition to the Essington International Senior College, and is another key achievement of the Charles Darwin University as it establishes itself as a world-class education institution.

“Darwin is closer to the major commercial centres of Asia than any other Australian capital, making it an ideal place for companies to invest and do business.”

Essington and Tamagawa have run a student/teacher exchange program since 2001, after Tamagawa approached the Territory Government wanting to establish links with a school in Darwin.

The new centre will also be used to host cultural events for the Darwin Japanese community and is expected to be open by the start of next year.

The Centre builds on the Territory 2030 target to establish Darwin as a hub for international education.

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