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Arafura Games Heads of Delegation to Discuss 09 Games

Sports Minister Matthew Bonson will attend the Arafura Games Heads of Delegation Meeting in Brunei this week, which will see representatives from 15 countries meet to discuss the 2009 Games.

The Heads of Delegation meeting will provide the Territory with an opportunity to engage representatives in the lead up to the 2009 Arafura Games.

“Sport is an important part of our great Territory lifestyle, and the Arafura Games is a major event on the packed Territory sporting calendar,” Mr Bonson said.

"Territorians are vibrant and multicultural - we love sport and we love the Arafura Games, and this is why it is important we continue to make the Games as fantastic as ever, and to continue to expand them over the years.

“As well as the Games providing an opportunity to share the Territory’s great lifestyle with our friends in the region, they also provide a boost to our tourism and business industries.”

Mr Bonson said the Heads of Delegation meeting will enable him to engage with country representatives to ensure the Arafura Games continue to grow and strengthen.

"This meeting will allow countries to engage in the planning process for the next Games, they will be able to guide us on how best to meet the international sport requirements of the region.

“This sort of feedback and involvement from countries is nothing short of essential ensuring we continue to improve this great Territory event."

In attendance for the Heads of Delegation meeting are the Ministers from both Brunei and the Philippines as well as senior officials from thirteen other countries.

"It is a great credit to the Territory that so many senior officials from so many different countries are willingly and actively contributing to improving the Arafura Games, it demonstrates the position the Games has achieved in international sport in the region"

Mr Bonson said the meeting will also see the first time establishment of Standing Committees for the Arafura Games.

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