Northern Territory represented at 22nd World Hakka Conference

The Northern Territory Government has supported the bid by the NT Hakka Association to host the 2012 World Hakka Conference in Darwin.

The Minister for Asian Relations, Kon Vatskalis, today spoke about the Northern Territory before 1400 delegates at the 22nd World Hakka Conference in Xian, China.

“The history of the Northern Territory is strongly linked to China with many of our early settlers Hakka people,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“In fact, in the late 1800’s Chinese migrants outnumbered Europeans leading to Darwin becoming known as ‘the Orient in the Outback’.”

The Minister said the Northern Territory has maintained strong links with China over recent years in the areas of business, migration, trade and exports.

“We would be delighted to see the 2012 World Hakka Conference hosted in Darwin at our new convention centre,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Such an event would bring around 1500 delegates to Darwin from around the world bringing many economic benefits to the city.

“With this in mind, the Territory Government is pleased to provide a $15,000 grant to further document the involvement of the Hakka people in the history and establishment of the Northern Territory.”

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