Northern Territory Government Bids For Biggest Ever Arafura Games

The Henderson Government is making a bid for record numbers of countries to take part in the 2011 Arafura Games, holding a series of meetings with key nations as part of Northern Territory Week at the Shanghai World Expo.

Minister for Business and Employment Rob Knight will host the Regional Heads of Delegation meeting for the Arafura Games on behalf of Sports Minister Karl Hampton today.

“The Arafura Games is vital boost to our local tourism market and we want to make the 2011 Arafura Games the biggest on record,” Mr Knight said.

“As part of World Expo we’re targeting new and existing countries as we expand this great event even further.

“Last year more than 4000 people visited Darwin as part of the Arafura Games, providing valuable spin off benefits for local hospitality, retail and other businesses.

“The event generates more than $5 million investment in the local economy, while fostering key business links between the NT and its regional neighbours.

“Every two years the Arafura Games grows in number of countries; most recently in the 2009 games we saw teams from as far away as England, Ireland and Iran competing in Darwin.”

The Regional Heads of Delegation meeting for the Arafura Games includes key officials from countries including China, Japan, Hong Kong, Macau and Chinese Taipei.

“The Regional Heads of Delegation meeting for the Arafura Games will help us secure as many countries as possible for the event next year and help us reach our aim to have a record number of countries taking part,” Mr Knight said.

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