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Unlocking the Territory’s Future Opportunities in Asia

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, travels to Thailand today on a mission to build business, educational and cultural ties with the South East Asian nation.

“The Northern Territory has a number of major projects on the horizon which are expected to drive a large increase in labour demand over the next few years,” Ms Lawrie said.

“We are working to address skill shortages in a number of ways including through Australian Government Regional Migration Agreements and temporary skilled migration.

“Thailand is a regional neighbour with a strong community in Darwin, largely from the Ubon province. We will meet with the Thailand Government and training institutions to commence discussions on forging training and labour links.”

Ms Lawrie will be accompanied by Executive Director of Master Builders NT Graham Kemp and President of the Thai Association of the Northern Territory, Mrs Somsong Albert.

“Industry supports the pro-active stance by the NT Government to develop relationships and skill sets with our Asian neighbours because this is where the future will be for the Territory,” Mr Kemp said.

“With large projects such as INPEX Total, the Marine Supply Base and the Prison looming, workforce growth is the challenge facing the Territory into the future.

“Australia is projected to need another 36,000 workers by 2015 – I commend the preparations the NT Government is making to position itself for the challenges of the skill shortages to come.

“We must take action now to take advantage of the opportunities for the Territory opening up in Asia in the future,” Mr Kemp said.

The delegation will tour technical colleges in Chiang Mai and Ubon, and start discussions on recognition for building industry qualifications to facilitate linkages between Northern Territory and Thai institutions.

Recognition of qualifications and employment opportunities will be discussed at meetings with the Ministries of Labor and Education as well as provincial government representatives.

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