TRADE MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH KEY VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Hanoi: Asian Relations and Trade Minister Rob Knight held talks with several key Vietnamese Ministers and Vice Ministers today (Wednesday) in Hanoi as part of his push to continue increasing exports from the Northern Territory to Vietnam.

"I told Vice Minister for Trade and Industry H.E. Mr Nguyen Thanh Bein that Darwin is a hub for the AustralAsia Trade Route and is the closest capital city to Asia making it Australia's gateway to Asia."

"Vietnam has been identified as an emerging market in the Northern Territory Government's international trade strategy Growing International Trade 2009-2013."

"Since the launch of the strategy there have been a number of trade delegations to Vietnam, focussing on business development."

"Demand in Vietnam for imported products has increased significantly recent years."

"Opportunities for Territory Business exist particularly in mining, oil and gas, live cattle trade, two-way tourism, education and training sectors."

"More exports means more jobs for Territorians so it is absolutely vital that our Government do everything in its power to increase exports."

"I believe we should also attract more Vietnamese students to study in the Northern Territory."

Mr Knight also held talks with Minister for Education and Training H.E. Dr Tran Quang Quy, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development H.E. Diep Kinh Tan and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr Le Luong.

"I invited Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr Le Luong to visit Darwin when he is next in Australia."

Mr Knight is in Hanoi as part of the eight day Ministerial visit to Vietnam and China to explore potential trade opportunities in Asia and to strengthen Government to Government relationships in the region.

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Note image attached. Caption: Trade Minister Rob Knight in talks with Vietnam Central Government Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr Le Luong in Hanoi.

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