The Territory gifts Timorese people CDU scholarship

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today presented Prime Minister of Timor-Leste His Excellency Mr Xanana Gusmao on behalf of the Timor-Leste with a CDU scholarship at a ceremony at Parliament House in Darwin.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the scholarship at the new CDU North Australian Centre for Oil and Gas is a gift from Territorians to the Timorese people in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the independence of Timor-Leste.

“Territorians have a strong bond with the Timorese people and I know our strong local Timorese community will be proud to offer this fantastic educational opportunity to a Timorese student,” Henderson said.

“The scholarship is a sign of our commitment to our partnership with Timor and to sharing our educational opportunities - both the Northern Territory and Timor-Leste will play a major role in the growth of the oil and gas industry over the coming years.

“Our CDU provides Territory students with world-class training opportunities and it’s great we can share our excellent educational facilities with the Timorese community.

“This scholarship will allow a Timorese citizen to study for an Associate Degree in Process Engineering at the new Centre for Oil and Gas in Darwin, which will be at the forefront of oil and gas research and training in the South-East Asian region.

The formal presentation of the scholarship follows a visit to Dili by Chief Minister Henderson to take part in the 10th anniversary of the Independence of Timor.

The Chief Minister Paul Henderson was invited to celebrations along with the Governor-General of Australia Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Warren Snowdon Minister for Defence Science and Personnel.

The scholarship is valued at over $100,000, which includes a $75,000 contribution from the Territory Government over two years and fee waivers being offered by CDU and its partner Navitas English.

CDU Vice-Chancellor Barney Glover said that CDU had a long history of collaboration and cooperation with Timor-Leste, which he expected would intensify with the development of the oil and gas industry in the region.

“We are pleased to offer this scholarship to help build capacity in one of our nearest neighbours,” Mr Glover said.

The North Australian Centre for Oil and Gas opened this year at CDU’s Casuarina Campus. The Centre will be focused on meeting the education, research and training needs of the growing oil and gas industry in the region.

Media Contact: Claire March 0403 937 849