NEW TIMOR-LESTE CONSULATE TO OPEN IN DARWIN

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The President of Timor-Leste has cemented his country’s relationship with the Northern Territory by personally announcing to Chief Minister Adam Giles that he will open an official Consulate in Darwin for the first time.

This week in Darwin, Mr Giles and President Taur Matan Ruak held their second round of talks to discuss strengthening trade and diplomatic ties.

“Having a Timor-Leste Consulate in Darwin is evidence of the Territory’s growing relationship with our near neighbour,” Mr Giles said.

“It cements our friendship and recognises the importance of the Territory to the Timor-Leste economy.”

Since his visit to Dili in May, Mr Giles has been working closely with the Timor-Leste Government to build stronger regional relations and economic opportunities.

“The new Consulate will give the two governments a direct line of communication as we work to build stronger economic, cultural, social and environmental ties,” Mr Giles said.

“We are also keen to build a tri-lateral relationship between the NT, Timor-Leste and eastern Indonesia and have agreed to sponsor a business forum in Bali in November, in which we will seek to involve all three jurisdictions.”

Getting seasonal workers into the Territory from Timor-Leste was also on the agenda for this week’s Darwin talks, as well as crocodile management.

“We have a lot of expert knowledge about crocodiles to share with Timor-Leste and we are keen to help the country manage its growing crocodile population,” Mr Giles said.

“Timor-Leste has been a close friend of the Northern Territory for many years and the announcement of a Consulate in Darwin is evidence that the relationship continues to go from strength to strength.”

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