BUILDING EVEN STRONGER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

8 July 2013

Chief Minister Adam Giles has wrapped up a busy week hosting the President and CEO of INPEX Corporation, as well as the Japanese Consul-General, on visits to the Territory.

“The Northern Territory’s relationship with Japan has never been this strong. It was an honour to host these two very important guests,” Mr Giles said.

“Japan is of huge strategic importance to the Territory and the government is committed to building even stronger ties in the years ahead.”

INPEX President and CEO, Mr Toshiaki Kitamura was in Darwin for three days and it was his first chance to view progress on the company’s Ichthys project.

The Chief Minister joined him on a tour of the massive INPEX Onshore LNG Facility at Blaydin Point and the world class Howard Springs accommodation village.

“It is great to see the Inpex project taking shape. Work is now getting into full swing with more than 1600 local people currently working on the project’s onshore facilities,” Mr Giles said.

“So far, 139 local Territory companies have been awarded 159 contracts and I am pleased to see so many opportunities for local people.

“Ichthys is Japan’s biggest offshore investment anywhere in the world and the company has already injected US$1.5 Billion into the Territory economy. There is much more to come.”

Over the weekend, the Japanese Consul-General in Sydney, Dr Masahiro Kohara visited Central Australia to sample the unique experiences available for tourists in the region.

“They were hugely impressed by their visit to the Desert Park in Alice Springs and the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park,” Mr Giles said.

“I am sure they will spread the word about the great things there are to see and do in Central Australia.
“Japan is our fourth largest international tourist market with an estimated 28000 Japanese visitors coming to the Territory in 2012. But there is still room to grow and we hope they will tell everyone what a great place this is to visit.

“This visit will add to the work we are doing building the Territory’s tourism business in Japan.”

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(Please note: pictures are available of both visits on request)