Chief Minister

CHIEF MINISTER ADDRESSES AUSTRALIA-JAPAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

22 October 2013

Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles took time out from a series of high level meetings with Japanese corporate executives in Tokyo, to deliver the keynote address to the 51st Australia Japan Joint Business Conference.

He stressed the growing opportunities for foreign investment, particularly in the Territory’s energy and agricultural sectors.

The Chief Minister heads an NT delegation in Japan before visiting China and Vietnam with the aim of strengthening NT trade and investment links with these important Asian markets.

He told the conference that the Territory was uniquely poised to play a major trade role in the Asian Century.

With dynamic economies like those of Japan, China and Vietnam, a secure energy supply by a trusted supplier is of paramount significance.

He noted that the Territory, with its Ichthys and Conoco Phillips Darwin LNG projects will eventually supply more than 10 per cent of Japan’s future LNG demands.

“Darwin has the capacity for these projects to expand to triple the supply to Japan,” Mr Giles said.

While the offshore natural gas has become a major growth sector in the Territory economy, it is the new onshore activity that the Chief Minister believes to be the Territory’s future economic powerhouse.

Mr Giles said the Territory is potentially endowed with trillions of cubic feet of natural gas spread across six sprawling remote area basins.

“I am firmly convinced that the future development of the Australian energy sector will require the provision of connecting gas pipelines from these emerging Northern Territory onshore resources to Australia’s existing national energy grid,” Mr Giles said.

“I have been actively building support for the construction of this infrastructure in North Australia.”

The Chief Minister concluded his address by inviting the audience and their families to Darwin in October 2014 when the Territory capital plays host to the 52nd Australia Japan Joint Business Conference.

Media Contact:
Ron Kelly 0408 906 173