Chief Minister Adam Giles has changed the focus from business opportunities to education links during the second full day of the Northern Territory delegation’s visit to Vietnam.

Mr Giles and Mr John Hassed, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Charles Darwin University’s VET program, along with other members of the Territory’s high level trade delegation, inspected the Hong Lam International Vocational College in the Vietnamese southern port city of Vung Tau.

“Today the NT delegation toured Vung Tau City where we promoted educational opportunities that are available in Darwin and Alice Springs that could have real benefits to Charles Darwin University’s VET program and deliver high quality training to Vietnamese students,” Mr Giles said.

Vung Tau has had an MOU with the Northern Territory seeking joint cooperation since 2007, however work on this MOU had stalled.

“This is my first visit to Vung Tau and I brought a renewed commitment from the Territory Government to expand the reach of CDU into Vietnam and encourage Vietnamese students to study in Darwin or Alice Springs,” Mr Giles said.

The Hong Lam International Vocational College is a private school run by the VABIS group of companies.

“The chairman of the VABIS Board, Mr Nguyen Ngoc My, has visited Darwin a number of times in recent months and is very keen to forge closer ties between the school and CDU,” Mr Giles said.

Mr Giles discussed how VET Students from Vietnam could extend their skills and experience through additional training in the Territory.

“Like CDU’s VET program, the VABIS Hong Lam International Vocational College concentrates on vocational training for a skilled workforce. They offer English training to Certificate 3 but could extend that training to Certificate 5 in Darwin,” Mr Giles said.

“I look forward to a delegation of Vietnamese VET providers visiting both Darwin and Alice Springs in the coming months to progress these opportunities.

“Like Darwin, the port of Vung Tau is a service and supply centre for the offshore oil and gas industry. This makes both the Oil and Gas faculty at CDU in Darwin and the trade training facilities in Alice Springs ideally placed to provide the skills and expertise now in demand in Vietnam.”

(High res picture available on request)

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