A large Territory trade mission leaves for East Kilimanjaro today aimed at strengthening links between Northern Australia and Indonesia.

“The Territory is working hard to build its trilateral relationship with Indonesia and Timor-Leste, and this trade mission will be a further step in developing closer ties with our largest neighbour,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

The mission to the Balikpapan Mining and Petroleum Expo will be led by the Territory’s newly appointed Commissioner to Indonesia and ASEAN, Terry Mills.

“Balikpapan in East Kalimantan is the main service and supply centre for some of Indonesia’s largest mining and oil and gas projects and is home to major companies such as Leighton, Thiess, Caterpillar, Chevron, INPEX and Total,” Mr Giles said.

“These companies have an appetite for world class services and supplies and the Northern Territory business community is developing its skill set to provide these to Indonesian markets.”

The NT delegation is made up of 23 business people from 11 local companies including Atom Supply, Carcom, Bridge Toyota, EcoOz Environmental, CDU and Rusca Brothers – all of whom will be jointly exhibiting at a Northern Territory booth during the three day expo.

“Some of the local companies are already doing business in Balikpapan and are looking to further grow their exports, whereas others are new to this exciting market,” Mr Giles said.

“We are working hard to expand our trading relationships with our nearest neighbour and while the cattle industry remains our mainstay, we are looking to increase trade in industrial hardware, telecommunications equipment, mine-site rehabilitation, education and vehicle spare parts.

“Our clear message to the business community of Indonesia at this Expo is that the Territory is open for business as the capital of Northern Australia.

While in Indonesia, the mission will also be working hard to foster closer government to government links between Territory and Indonesia.
Mr Mills will be visiting Samarinda, the capital of East Kalimantan, where he is expected to meet with the Governor, His Excellency, Awang Faroek and a range of senior government and business officials.

The Samarinda visit will be targeted at increasing the number of Indonesia students at Charles Darwin University and assisting them in land resource management and mine site rehabilitation projects.

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