Expanding trade links with Malaysia

15 September 2014

Chief Minister Adam Giles is on a trade mission to Malaysia where he’ll meet with airlines and tourism operators, as well as attend a major international business expo.

“Malaysia is one of the most important economic players in the Australia-Asia Growth Zone and I think there is enormous opportunity for the Territory’s trade relationship with this near neighbour to expand,” Mr Giles said.

“Trade between the Territory and Malaysia is currently at an all-time high but Malaysia remains only our 12th largest international export market, so there is certainly room for the relationship to mature.

“The Sabah International Expo is held every two years and is one of the region’s premier business fairs attracting exhibitors from more than 20 countries.

“I’m thrilled to be attending this regional trade event and will be accompanied by a Territory business delegation, led by the Chamber of Commerce.

“It is an amazing opportunity for the Territory, and particularly our business community, to showcase the investment opportunities on offer in Northern Australia.”

The Chief Minister will also hold high-level talks with Malaysia Airlines.

“The Territory already has direct air links with Kuala Lumpur and I am keen to talk to senior Malaysia Airlines executives about how we can enhance this important partnership,” Mr Giles said.

“I know Malaysia Airlines is committed to its Darwin route and I want to explore ways we can encourage Territorians to make the most of cheap and convenient flights this arrangement provides.”

After recently opening the Darwin’s new Marine Supply Base, Mr Giles will also tour the massive Asian Supply Base Sdn Bhd in Labuan which services the oil and gas industry.

“This state of the art facility provides a model of how a supply base can contribute to the overall economy of a location,” he said.
Tourism is a key industry for Malaysia and Mr Giles will be looking at what might be learnt from local eco-tourism ventures and possible applications in the Territory, particularly in remote locations such as the Tiwi Islands.

Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801