Chief Minister Adam Giles has met with senior executives from Malaysia Airlines and agreed to ramp-up marketing efforts promoting the company’s Darwin – Kuala Lumpur route.

“Darwin is right on Asia’s doorstep, within four hours flying time of eight Asian capitals and Malaysia Airlines is connecting us through Kuala Lumpur to the world,” Mr Giles said.

“This service has been well supported by Territorians, including myself for my visit here. I found the service excellent and I encourage more Territorians to take advantage of the cheap, convenient flights on offer with this full-service, world-class airline.

“The Malaysia Airlines service is also particularly good for Alice Springs residents who can now fly all the way to London on a single ticket thanks to the One World Alliance.

“During my meetings with Proteek Kumar Sengupta, Head Commercial Strategy and Network Planning, and Captain Izham Ismail, Director of Operations, Malaysia Airlines expressed an ongoing commitment to their Darwin service.

“I know Malaysia Airlines is committed to its Darwin route as an important element of the One World network, linking the Territory to important trading partners such as Japan and Vietnam through Kuala Lumpur.

“Air links like this are critical to our plans for Northern Australia Development because they provide business people with easy access to the Territory.

“It also provides us with connections to traditional leisure markets in Europe including Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, whilst presenting opportunities to explore newer holiday markets such as Thailand.

“Tourism NT already has a cooperative advertising agreement with Malaysia Airlines and I have agreed to work with the company to escalate our promotional efforts over the coming months.

“I have also been privileged to hold extremely positive talks with senior executives from the Malaysian oil and gas company, Petronas, at their headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.
“We spoke extensively about offshore gas opportunities at Evans Shoal, in which they are a partner, as well the future Territory possibilities for gas from the Browse Basin.

“We also had a particularly encouraging discussion about what a gas pipeline between Tennant Creek and Mt Isa could mean for domestic and international gas.”

Over the coming days, Mr Giles will inspect the state of the art Asian Supply Base Sdn Bhd in Labuan before attending the Sabah International Expo which attracts delegates from more than 20 countries across the region.

“Labor Chief Ministers have snubbed this important conference since 2006, preferring instead to fly over the region,” Mr Giles said.

“My Government knows how important this region can be to the future of Northern Australia and is committed to building the kind relationships we need with investors in this part of the world.

“Labor failed to do the same and the Territory’s reputation in places like Sabah suffered as a result.”

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