Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Territory welcome for Japanese business leaders

12 October 2014

Chief Minister Adam Giles will tonight officially welcome hundreds of business leaders who have touched down in Darwin for this week’s Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference.

“It is a huge coup for the Territory to be hosting this prestigious conference which attracts the cream of the Japanese and Australian business community,” Mr Giles said.

“I would like to extend a warm Territory welcome to these corporate leaders who will get a chance to see first-hand the investment opportunities we have to offer.

“I was a keynote speaker at this conference in Tokyo last year and it is an honour to have brought the event onto Territory soil with an impressive list of industry representatives and government officials from both countries attending.”

Japanese companies including INPEX, Mitsubishi Corporation, JGC, Chiyoda and Mitsui are all represented, as well as the three Japanese mega banks, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), Mizuho Bank and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Australian delegates include representatives from top mining and energy companies such as Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Woodside, ConocoPhillips and Santos, as well as the NAB and ANZ banks.

“Our relationship with Japan is going from strength to strength and this conference is an opportunity to showcase the kinds of exciting projects being pursued in Northern Australia,” Mr Giles said.

“Without doubt, the $34 Billion Ichthys project is the jewel in the crown of Japanese investment.

“Ichthys is the largest ever Japanese foreign investment project and once the Bladin Point plant is fully operational, the Territory will be supplying 10 per cent of Japan’s gas needs.

“I am keen to see our LNG trade with Japan expand even further but I am also anxious to broaden our engagement with Japanese companies in other sectors such as agribusiness and education.

“Mitsui are already leading the way with their multi-million dollar investment in the Tiwi Islands Forestry Plantation which is exactly the kind of partnership we would like to see more of.”
Proposed projects including a gas pipeline linking Central Australia to the East Coast gas grid, the future development of Territory ports and a new International Grammar School in Darwin all present exciting investment opportunities.

“The Northern Territory is the gateway between Asia and Australia. There is huge potential for growth and we are keen to see Japanese investors be part of that expansion,” Mr Giles said.

“I wish all the delegates a fantastic stay in the Territory and I hope they take the opportunity to visit some of our beautiful tourist attractions while they are here.”

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