Ken Vowles, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, attended the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games last night as the Northern Territory Government representative.

Minister Vowles was in Indonesia this week promoting the Northern Territory's cattle industry as an ongoing supplier of choice for the Indonesian market.

“I was able to incorporate into my trip a visit to Samarinda, the capital of East Kalimantan, to meet with the Northern Territory’s sporting competitors,” Mr Vowles said.

The BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games are a biennial sporting event between the regions of the four member countries of BIMP-EAGA; Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The Northern Territory was pleased to accept an invitation from the BIMP-EAGA Sports Council to be a special guest at the 2016 Games. The Northern Territory will participate in six sporting events at the games including, archery, athletics, badminton, beach volleyball, tennis and table tennis.

“It is important for the Northern Territory to continue to strengthen our ties with Asia, and sport helps achieve that outcome,” Mr Vowles said.

“Attending the BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games also serves as another step to strengthening the Northern Territory Government election commitment to bring back the Arafura Games.

“With 39 Northern Territory athletes and coaches participating, the BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games presents a great opportunity to promote and develop interest for the Arafura Games with our neighbouring countries.

“It was great to experience the festivities, culture and friendship of the BIMP-EAGA Games and I wish all athletes and their support teams the best of luck.”

The 2016 BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games are being held from 6-12 December in Samarinda, capital of East Kalimantan Indonesia on the island of Borneo.

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