Sixteen Territory business people will visit the world renowned Export Commodity Fair in Guangzhou Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today.

Ms Martin visited the 7,500 stall fair today with Chamber of Commerce NT President, Bruce Fadelli.

“One of the major points of my business mission to China is to lend support to an NT International Business Council (IBC) initiative that will see a 16-strong Territory business delegation participate in the China Export Commodities Fair,” she said.

“This will see a focus placed on opportunities to import Chinese goods into the Territory and Australia expand what Territory business currently provide.

“It’s an exciting chance to explore possible new ventures and products.

“To provide Government support to this venture I have met up with the delegation and will host a networking function and industry presentation for the group and their Chinese business contacts.

“The delegation of business people is here to expand on existing business and explore new opportunities in China in areas ranging from information technology, to agricultural markets and student recruitment.”

Ms Martin said that the initiative was being organised by NT International Business Council in conjunction with the Darwin branch Hong Kong / Australia Business Association.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister says she will continue working to see China Southern Airlines begin charter flights to the Territory in the near future, following what she described as a successful meeting with the company today.

“While China Southern Airlines are unlikely to begin a regular service in the near future there is a very real potential for lucrative charter flights to the Territory which would see an increase in tourists and a boost for the industry,” she said.

“These charter flights would link in with cruise ship visits, The Ghan and special events and we would hope they would eventually develop into something more permanent – as we do with Silk Air and other airlines who have had chartered flights to the Territory in the last year.

“My Government believes that this is another way that we can help boost tourism as the industry rebounds and we will continue pushing the case with China Southern Airlines when we return to the Territory.”