The Territory Government is confident that its special trading and business relationship with Indonesia will prosper even further as a result of today’s successful meeting with President Megawati Soekarnoputri in Jakarta.

Chief Minister Clare Martin said the discussions ranged across a wide range of subjects.

These included:

- Expanding the relationship developed through the 10-year old Memorandum of Understanding.
- Developing further links in areas such as agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, tourism, mining, education and health.
- Developing Darwin as a key supply base for Eastern Indonesia.
- Developing further tourism links between the Territory and Indonesia, with a particular focus on the Eastern region of the country and the backpacker market.
- Trade implications as a result of the development of the Alice Springs-Darwin rail link.
- The Change of Government in the Territory not impacting on the continuity of the positive relationship.

Ms Martin said she had also invited the President to visit the Territory.

"The President is very much aware of the strong relationship between the Territory and Indonesia."

"She expressed her country’s commitment to building on that relationship."

"The government believes the meetings with the President and some of her senior ministers are a crucial first step to bolster trade and attract further investment to the Territory."

"They are also aimed at laying the foundations for Territory businesses to visit Indonesia and take advantages of the many opportunities that exist."

Ms Martin said she and Business, Industry and Resource Development and Asian Relations and Trade Minister Paul Henderson were impressed with the President’s knowledge of the Territory.

The Chief Minister presented the President with a crocodile leather compendium as a small gift from the people of the Territory.

The Territory delegation today also met with Foreign Affairs Minister Hassan Wirayunda, the Minister for Industry and Trade Rini Soewandi and the Co-ordinating Minister for People’s Welfare Uusuf Kalla.