The Martin Government has welcomed a visiting Chinese delegation, in Darwin to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and China and the 50th Anniversary of the Australia-China Friendship Society.

The 13 representatives will spend the next 3 days in Darwin, celebrating both events and touring the city.

"It’s a great honour that our friends from China have chosen Darwin to mark these important occasions," Ms Martin said.

"Such visits go a long way to strengthening ties with our northern neighbours, and promote the Territory as the diverse multicultural society it is."

The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australian and Chinese Governments.

"Two way trade now totals almost $19 billion annually, 100 times the figure 30 years ago when, under Prime Minister Whitlam, Australia established relations with China," Ms Martin said.

"China is our 3rd largest trade partner and Australian entrepreneurs have invested directly in more than 4,000 projects in China, while there are also many Chinese investment projects in this country."

Activities to mark the anniversary will include visits to the Trade Development Zone, East Arm and Crocodylus Park. All of which are expected to boost economic and social links between Australia and China.

The Minister’s thanked the Darwin branch of the Australia-China Friendship Society for its assistance in organising the visit and congratulated the national organisation on 50 years building bilateral relations.

Ethnic Affairs Minister Kon Vatskalis said he was pleased the organisation had received $2,000 for their celebration through the Ethnic Affairs Sponsorship Program.

"This Government is proud to support such cultural events, and thankful multicultural groups are willing to share their traditions with the rest of the community," he said.

Mr Vatskalis said celebrations would culminate in a concert at the Northern Territory University tomorrow night, with traditional song and dance on show.

The delegation leaves Darwin on Sunday to visit Bendigo in Victoria, a sister-city to China.

Please note some of the delegation’s activities in Darwin below:
Friday 11th October 2002 –

0900 – Visit Territory Perspective (NT Marketing Centre), Development House.
1115 – Bus tour of East Arm.
1145 – Visit Crocodylus Park, Berrimah.
1400 – Visit Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Saturday 12th October 2002 –

0900 – Sightseeing bus tour of Darwin.
1530 – Visit Aquascene Fish Feeding.
1830 – Australia-China Friendship Society Concert, NTU Theatre.