VIETNAM’S GIFT OF MUSIC

07 March 2013

The Consul General of Vietnam has offered a gift to the people of the Northern Territory. Chief Minister Terry Mills accepted a traditional Vietnamese Dan Da (xylophone) from Consul General Mr Le Viet Duyen in a small but significant milestone ceremony at Parliament House.

“The gift marks 40 years of bilateral cooperation between Vietnam and Australia – a relationship that has continued and strengthened with mutual benefit,” Mr Mills said.

“There is no doubt that over the past 40 years, Vietnam has emerged as a confident nation, secure in its position and direction in the region.

“To Australia, Vietnam is an important trading partner worth around $5 billion in two-way trade, with direct investment flows continuing to grow. Australia’s own investment in Vietnam has now reached $580 million.

“The relationship between the Northern Territory and the Central Government of Vietnam has grown significantly. This has been on the back of reciprocal visits of high government ranking officials and business leaders in recent times.

“Trade activities have also grown significantly, particularly in livestock exports and education.

“Since September 2011, five shipments of cattle (approximately 7000 head valued at over $6 million) from the Northern Territory have been delivered to various ports in Vietnam.

“This trade has potential to quickly grow and add significant value to the Territory’s pastoral sector and regional communities.

“Vietnamese students coming to Darwin to study in secondary and tertiary institutions are increasing steadily. Similarly, Charles Darwin University has established partnerships with three universities in Vietnam to encourage exchange of students through twinning programs and research opportunities.”

The Dan Da will be kept at the NT Music School.

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