Northern Territory welcomes delegation from Rizhao

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Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles today welcomed a high-level delegation from Rizhao in China.

The 17-member delegation included the Mayor of Rizhao, Liu Xingtai, the chairman of Shandong Landbridge Group, Ye Cheng, and the general manager of Rizhao Tianze Cold Chain Logistics, Zheng Qiang.

The visit followed the signing of an agreement on April 14 between Rizhao City and the Northern Territory. Officials discussed investment opportunities in the Territory, including in agribusiness, tourism infrastructure, mining and resources and transport/cold chain logistics.

“Rizhao are interested in creating China-Australia business parks in both Rizhao and Darwin to enhance trade and investment,” Mr Giles said.

“Part of the attraction for us in Landbridge leasing the port is the opportunity to leverage their corporate connections in Shandong.

“Their interest is for exports from northern Australia to flow from Darwin to Rizhao, to the benefit of both cities.”

Mr Giles said the NT Government would encourage investment in cold chain logistics, including warehousing facilities to export beef and other agricultural products.

He said the talks were energised by the recent signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

“Positive opportunities are opening up as we hoped,” Mr Giles said.

“The Landbridge investment in Darwin is consistent with China’s Maritime Silk Road Strategy and consolidates Darwin’s position as a natural gateway between Australia and China.”

Mr Giles said increased cultural, tourism and educational links were also discussed.

“Rizhao City will promote international communication and cooperation between educational institutions Shandong and the Northern Territory,” he said.

Mr Giles confirmed a high-level NT Government and industry delegation would attend a major business and trade fair at Rizhao in October/November.

“Today’s visit is a demonstration of the high level of commitment by Rizhao to forge strong ties and mutually beneficial business partnerships with the Northern Territory,” he said.

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