Chief Minister Clare Martin and Business, Industry and Resource Development Minister Paul Henderson will lead a high level delegation to the Philippines next month.

Mr Henderson said the delegation will meet with Ministers and senior officials from the Philippines with the aim of developing significant trade opportunities for Territory businesses.

"This is an opportunity for the NT Government to demonstrate its support of trade and relationship opportunities between our two regions," Mr Henderson said.

"And in the process we are hoping to develop strengthened trade prospects for NT businesses who want to explore the possibility of expanding their business into the Philippines.

"The delegation will include a visit to the Mindanao region to build on existing trade ties."

Mr Henderson said the Territory is well positioned to become a major supplier of goods and services to South-East Asia.

"Strong international trade underpins a strong Territory and creates prosperity for all.

"Territory trade has been a strong feature of our economy and is estimated to contribute to the jobs of more than one in every four Territorians. Total exports in 2001 alone exceeded $3.4 billion."

Mr Henderson said the NT Government's recently released International Trade Strategy aims to achieve trade growth for the Territory over the next five years.

"The discussion paper sets a number of trade targets for the Territory to achieve by 2007, and outlines how the NT Government proposes to expand international trade in genuine partnership with business, industry and the community," Mr Henderson said.

The Strategy discussion paper was pinpointed as an integral milestone to be reached by the end of June in the Economic Develop Strategy.