MEDIA RELEASE
Monday, August 22nd 2011

Darwin Hosts International Education Experts

International education and training experts from throughout the Asia Pacific met with local educators and business representatives in Darwin today.

The NT Minister for Education and Training, Dr Chris Burns, formally welcomed delegates to the Asia Pacific International Education Gateway Forum being facilitated by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) with the support of the NT Government and Charles Darwin University.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said international education was increasingly regarded as a powerful tool for diplomacy in the Asia Pacific region.

“International education is one of the Asia Pacific region’s key tools for fostering professional and personal relationships, building shared cultural awareness and, critically, for addressing skills shortages within our respective nations,” she said.

“ACPET is delighted to once again be bringing together government and industry representatives, academics and thought leaders from our industry to continue a regional dialogue that helps to position the international education sector across the region for growth and stability.”

The visiting delegates from India, China, Fiji, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand joined with experts from throughout Australia to discuss strategies for positioning Darwin as a global hub for education and training. The rise of the Asia Pacific region, and particularly the growing demands of India and China, offers opportunities for a greater workforce mobility and Australian qualified graduates.

Minister Burns outlined the need for industries in the Territory to have access to a skilled labour force and to look at offshore partnerships to assist in supporting NT growth. Projected demands for tens of thousands more skilled workers in the NT over the next four years will only be met by a substantial increase in training and other related options, including skilled migration.

Delegates were united in identifying the pivotal role of government in supporting industry and training provider partnerships, and for making the most of existing relationships and networks throughout the region.

Media Contact: Ben Eade 0406 641 881