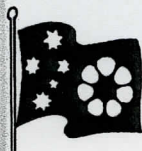


MEDIA RELEASE



**MINISTER FOR ASIAN RELATIONS AND TRADE
HON SHANE STONE, MLA**

Trade; S-E Asia

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Asian Relations and Trade Minister Shane Stone is meeting in Kuala Lumpur this weekend with Australia's High Commissioner to Malaysia John Dauth and officials in relation to the Territory's participation in the EAGA trade polygon.

EAGA- East Asian Growth Area- is a trade alliance between East Malaysia, southern Philippines, Brunei and parts of Indonesia's eastern provinces.

The Northern Territory has been having on-going discussions with EAGA member countries with the aim of securing a role in the trade polygon.

The Territory's push has been supported by two Federal Ministers, Trade Minister Senator Bob McMullan and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

Mr Stone said further EAGA talks will be held in Darwin next month.

"I will meet with the Heads of Mission from each of the member countries in Darwin in May," Mr Stone said.

"While here Mission members will take the opportunity to explore first hand the trade opportunities offered by the Territory."

ENDS

Contact: