

## Trade Cadet program to expand following decade of success

Trade Queensland's International Business Cadet program is to be expanded, creating more opportunities for business-motivated Queenslanders to gain valuable experience living and working overseas.

Minister for Trade John Mickel made the announcement today saying that the program was entering its eleventh year, and had proven a winner for all involved.

"The first decade of the International Business Cadet program has leveraged significant opportunities for 47 Cadets as well as delivering valuable results for their sponsor businesses and the Government," Mr Mickel said.

"As a result of this success, and following a successful 2008 program that has provided four Cadets with highly valuable on-the-job experience in Trade Queensland's overseas offices in China, Korea and Japan, we are expanding the program in 2009 to six cadets.

"This year's International Business Cadet program is now reaching conclusion with three of the Cadets having returned in August, and another, Ms Katie Neeson, due to return in mid-October to complete her Cadetship following a twenty-week stint in Japan.

"Each cadet is employed for a total of 29 weeks to perform research work on behalf of a Queensland sponsor organisation and spends 20 weeks working in one of Trade Queensland's overseas offices.

"Sponsors contribute \$20,000 towards the overall cost of 'their' Cadet and also provide training based on their organisation, its products and services. In return, the industry sponsor gets targeted market research that can help improve export performance.

"Following on from their experiences with Trade Queensland, many of our International Business Cadets have secured work in Queensland, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

"For example, one of this year's Cadets, Mr Li He, contributed significantly to a major export sale in China of over \$5 million for his sponsor business, Toowoomba's Russell Mineral Equipment, and has since commenced full-time employment with the company.

"The Government continues to be impressed with the calibre of people attracted to become International Business Cadets each year and we are proud to be expanding this successful program in 2009.

Queenslanders interested in taking part in this valuable program can contact the program coordinator Ken Parker in Trade Queensland on 3225 1478. Expressions of interest from potential International Business Cadets for 2009 will be called in early October and will close on Friday 31 October.