Premier Kristina Keneally yesterday announced the NSW Department of Education and Training International will host an event at Shanghai World Expo, on Wednesday 14 July to showcase NSW educational institutions to potential Chinese students.

The event will promote initiatives undertaken by NSW Government education providers to Chinese students, and the work of local NSW educational bodies in China.

In 2009 there were 1,930 students from China studying in NSW Government schools. NSW also welcomed approximately 1,800 Chinese students to TAFE NSW colleges enrolled in a range of courses including Accounting, Business, Children’s Services, Engineering, Information Technology and English language.

In 2008-09 Chinese students in Australia contributed around $3.8 billion to the national economy - an average annual growth rate of 38 per cent over the last 10 years, the largest from any country of origin.

Chinese students represent more than a quarter of all international student enrolments in NSW – the largest group of all international students in the State, which accounts for 42 per cent of Chinese student enrolments in Australia.

“This event will highlight NSW as the destination of choice for international students coming to study in Australia,” Ms Keneally said.

“It will demonstrate our State’s strong relationship with Chinese education providers in the schools and vocational training sectors, and showcase the outstanding achievements of Chinese students studying in government schools and TAFE Institutes in NSW.

“The NSW Government will also be signing Memorandums of Understanding with key Chinese educational institutions to strengthen the strong existing links developed with China through collaborative projects.”

The NSW Department of Education and Training will sign agreements with key institutions including the Shanghai Education Commission, Ningbo Municipal Education Commission and the Hanban/Confucious Institutes of the Ministry of Education of the Peoples Republic of China.

Fifteen students enrolled in a TAFE NSW transnational program with Xi’an International University in China are employed at the Australian Pavilion at the Expo.

This is a six-month paid internship with the International Venue Group which manages the operations, staffing and retail operations of the Australian Pavilion.

TAFE NSW also developed the Workforce Training Master Plan for the Shanghai World Expo 2010, providing the blueprint for managing the delivery of training to the entire organisational workforce –180,000 paid, volunteer and contractor staff – across all Expo events and activities.