

# Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **President hosts MoU deal between Western Australia and China**

The President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Barry House, yesterday hosted a delegation from the Dalian Municipal Government, which involved a *Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony* between Western Australia and Dalian (China).

His Excellency Mr Xia Deren, Party Secretary of the Dalian Municipal Government led the visit, with its sole purpose to promote economic cooperation and friendship between Dalian and Western Australia through a series of Memorandum of Understandings (MoU).

Recent bilateral visits by leaders - the Premier, Ministers and the President's visit to Dalian in June 2010, followed later by a delegation visit from the Dalian People's Congress Standing Committee - have emphasised the common endeavour and the desire to further explore opportunities for cooperation.

'I believe both sides view this MoU as important to the economic development of each other's region and believe the proposed cooperation is mutually beneficial,' said the President, Hon. Barry House.

In the MoU, which was signed yesterday at Parliament House, the Department of State Development and the Dalian-WA Cooperation and Development Committee have agreed that each party will provide the other with regular updates in regards to the resources sector in Western Australia and the potential demand for resources in the Dalian Municipality, and for further cooperation in the areas of trade, mineral resources, education, agriculture, manufacturing, clean green energy, and tourism.

'The Government of Western Australia, together with the Dalian Municipal People's Government, share a mutual aim of strengthening ties and furthering economic cooperation in areas of common interest,' said the President.

'The signing of this MoU is great news for Western Australia, which already has close ties to Dalian. Dalian is home to China's largest malting facility, which is a major consumer of Western Australia's barley, and LNG produced from the Gorgon Project will go through the Dalian Port,' explained the President.

The President said parliamentary delegations provide the political foundations on which such agreements and economic opportunities are made available to both government institutions and private enterprise additional to the mining industries.

“Parliamentary delegations provide important exchanges of ideas and information to members of parliament that assist in making more informed decisions by the legislature,” said the President.

The President hoped future dialogue between delegations to and from neighboring countries would see similar benefits to Western Australia.

MoU's between the City of Fremantle and the City of Dalian also featured at the *MoU Signing Ceremony*.

The MoU between the City of Fremantle and the City of Dalian, Liaoning Province agrees to further investigate areas of mutual interest leading to the establishment of a framework of cooperation in areas, such as economy and trade, port-to-port cooperation, tourism, and technical exchanges.

The Fremantle-Dalian city relationship idea was initiated by the Australian Ambassador to China, Dr Geoff Raby.

“The President's visit in June 2010 was also viewed as significant by the Dalian Government, as it demonstrated Western Australia's support of the bilateral relationship between both regions,” explained Party Secretary and Head of the Delegation, Mr Xia Deren.

All parties of the signed MoU's endeavour to meet on an annual basis to discuss areas of mutual interest and potential collaboration between relevant parties.



Picture: The signing of the MoU between the Department of State Development and the Dalian-WA Cooperation and Development Committee.

*From left: Dalian Party Secretary, Dr Xia Deren, Director General of Dalian Foreign Affairs Office, Mr Wang Hongjun, interpreter, Director General of the Department of State Development, Ms Anne Nolan, interpreter, and the President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Barry House.*



Picture: *The President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Barry House welcomes Delegation Leader and Dalian Party Secretary, Mr Xia Deren to Parliament House of Western Australia.*