

Visit from the National Institute of Technology Delegation of Beijing, China

In January 2011, I was privileged to host the Principal, Ms Lydia Liu and CEO, Dr James Tan of the National Institute of Technology from Beijing.

The National Institute of Technology Beijing (National Institute) is part of the Australia Educational Development Group (AEDG) which was established in 1995.

The AEDG, which was established by Dr James Tan and Dr Lydia Liu, is aimed at sending Chinese students to study in Australian institutes, mainly targeting Edith Cowan University, the University of Western Australia, Murdoch University and Curtin University. To date, AEDG has sent more than 1,000 students to WA institutions, of which 800 are tertiary students.

The delegation to Western Australia consisted of Dr KM Wong (Chairman, AEDG), Mr Peng Sang (President of Beijing Overseas Students Services Association), Mr Zhou Yuan (Chief Editor of Internal Affairs, People's Daily newspaper), and Ms Ping Zhang (Correspondent of Education, Central Chinese Television).



Dr Tan and Dr Liu headed the delegation from NIT to hold meetings with a number of senior public officials, as well as touring Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, University of Western Australia and Curtin University.

Through this visit, the delegates hoped to enhance their understanding of the Western Australia Curriculum, and look at how to strengthen the position of Western Australian education within China.

Dr James Tan wanted to take the opportunity to thank the support he has received from the Western Australian Parliament and hopes that the AEDG would continue its contribution to Western Australian education in the future.

Western Australia is keen to work closer with the National Institute to attract more Chinese students to study in Perth. China has been WA's top market for international students since 2002. Dr James Tan brought to my attention of his future plans to set up a school in WA to provide assistance to Chinese students.

I visited the National Institute in June, 2010 and I was impressed with the outstanding work Ms Liu had done in the promotion of Western Australian education in China.

After discussing education with the delegation, I invited the delegation to view the newly refurbished Legislative Council Chamber.

