

## Legislative Council Delegation in China

Recently, it was my privilege to lead a delegation from the Legislative Council of Western Australia to China. In particular, Shanghai, Beijing, Dalian, Hangzhou and Ningbo were visited.

Others members of our delegation were the Hon. Matt Benson MLC (Deputy President of the Legislative Council), the Hon. Ken Baston (Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region), the Hon. Helen Bullock MLC (Member of the Mining and Pastoral Region), and Mr Malcolm Peacock (Clerk of the Legislative Council).



Picture: *The Delegation outside the United Kingdom pavilion at the Shanghai Expo.*

It was a highly educational experience for me and my colleagues. There is no doubt we have returned with a much better understanding and appreciation of our own State and its pivotal place in world affairs.

The Chinese place a lot of emphasis on continuing contact with Western Australian leaders from all spheres of Government, Parliament, and Business. The Western Australia/Zhejiang Sister-State relationship, entered into in 1987, has been successful in establishing, consolidating and extending many constructive trade, commercial, government, educational, research and cultural networks and relationships. These are essential to doing business in China.

This Parliamentary Delegation represented the State very well and was received in a warm, friendly and positive manner wherever we went. Likewise,

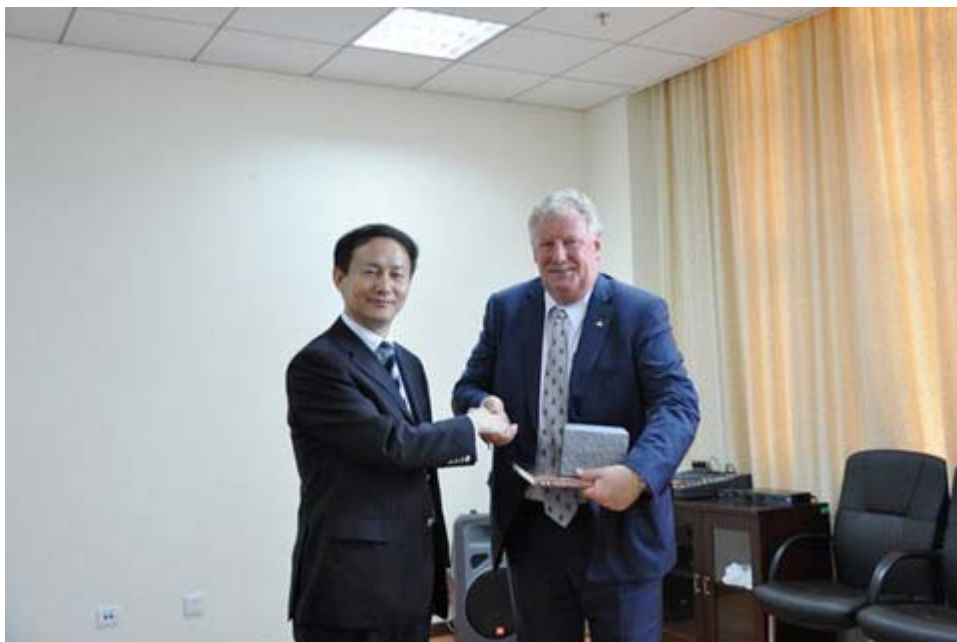
the Legislative Council has reciprocated by hosting several Chinese delegations in recent times and looks forward to more in the future.

Western Australia is very well represented by the WA Trade Office representatives in Shanghai and Hangzhou in particular BJ Zhuang, William Wang, Nancy Zhang (Perth Education Office) and others. These people are diligent, professional and well organised. They have established excellent contacts and networks in Government. They are well respected by the Chinese as well as other Australian Governments and private representatives.

China places a very strong emphasis on education and there appears to be high levels of education standards and qualifications in their institutions and of their population. Our delegation met with Professor Jin Yongxing, Vice President of the Shanghai Maritime University (SMU). Professor Yongxing explained to our delegation that the Master's program on Logistics Engineering and Management, which is jointly run by SMU and the University of Western Australia, was progressing very smoothly. He hoped that the two universities would continue to maintain the good cooperation and nurture more high-level logistics personnel. Professor Yongxing also hoped that SMU could develop exchanges and relationships with other universities in Western Australia with the strong support of the Western Australian government.

I was extremely grateful to SMU and Professor Yongxing for their hospitality during our visit. It is important that Western Australia maintains a close education relationship with China and it is strategic to have cooperation with one of China's best universities.

After the meeting, we visited the SMU Maritime Simulation Centre with Professor Yongxing. Western Australia has a much smaller facility of this type at the Kimberley TAFE in Broome.



Picture: The President, the Hon. Barry House and Professor Jin Yongxing, Vice President of the SMU.



Picture: The delegation - Mr Malcolm Peacock, the Hon. Matt Benson-Lidholm, the President, the Hon Barry House, Professor Jin Yongxing and other guests - "On the bridge" of the SMU Maritime Simulation Centre.



Picture: The welcoming note at the Shanghai Maritime University for the President.

The amount of resources being devoted to road, rail, port, airport and urban renewal infrastructure in designated economic zones of South East China is staggering. Large amounts of China's stimulus money, as a result of the global financial crisis have been dedicated to these nation building projects and the scale and speed of development is astounding.





Picture: The delegation visiting the Dalian deep water port, which has enormous capacity for very large cargo ships and accommodating facilities.



Picture: President and the Vice Chairman Mr Zhou Yu Peng of the Standing Committee Shanghai Municipal People's Congress.