

## **Ambassador of Romania**

Late August saw the First official visit to Western Australia by His Excellency Dr Mihai Stefan Stuparu, Ambassador of Romania. It was lovely to host the Ambassador at Parliament House.

Dr Stuparu has an MBA in Engineering from the Oil and Gas Institute in Ploiesti, Romania and he also holds a Masters Degree in Human Rights and a PhD in Political Administrative Studies.

Dr Stuparu has been an Ambassador of Romania, in the State of Qatar, Republic of Iraq, and was appointed Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand in 2009.

It was great to learn more about Romania from Dr Stuparu. Romania is located in the south-east of Central Europe and has a population of 22 million - as many as Australia! Australia's two way trade with Romania has fallen from \$249 million in 2008 to \$61.7 million in 2010, which is largely as a result of decreased demand for Australian exports.

Ambassador Stuparu has received numerous decorations and medals, including the Medal of Honour of the Romanian Army (2010), Medal of Honor of the Ministry of Defense of Romania (2007), and the Order of the Knight of the Star of Romania (2000). The Ambassador, in his variety of postings around the world, is fluent in French, Italian, Spanish, Arabic and Hebrew.

During the Ambassador's visit to Western Australia, he also met with the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, had an economic briefing by the Department of State Development, and met with the Governor of Western Australia and the Leader of the Opposition.



Picture: *The President, Hon Barry House, welcomes His Excellency, Dr Mihai Stuparu to the Legislative Council.*