

**Address by the President of the Republic Mr N. Anastasiades at
the opening ceremony of the Confucius Institute, Univ. of
Cyprus**

27/10/2014

It is with great pleasure that I address today the opening ceremony of the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus. The establishment of this Institute provides ample proof of the friendship and strong cooperation between the friendly countries of Cyprus and China.

Cultural interaction, exchange of knowledge and academic research are essential tools for bridging civilizations and building understanding between cultures. The Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus will be a prime example of such valuable interaction between Cyprus and China.

Business and economic collaborations will undoubtedly also play an important role in this respect; an institution which focuses on enhancing such collaborations is essential for building strategic partnerships.

I am certain that the collaboration of the University of Cyprus and the Beijing Institute of Education will be a bright example of exceptional partnership, which will enhance the bonds between our two countries on various levels.

Learning the Chinese Language, realizing the uniqueness of the Chinese culture, bringing Cypriot and Chinese people together in order to interact and communicate is fundamental. Visits from China to Cyprus have increased over the past years, against the general backdrop of globalization and increased human mobility. Many Chinese nationals have decided to leave and work in Cyprus. In an effort to foster understanding and communication, it is crucial to concentrate on the interaction of the two civilizations, embrace and exchange ideas on our long and rich histories, cultures and traditions.

For these reasons, I believe that the University of Cyprus is the ideal institution to foster these bonds.

Citizens worldwide have never been so close to each other, regardless

of their geographical location. While technology and social media are bridging geographical distances, what we are called to do is to create the conditions for strong social, cultural and academic bonds. The cooperation between the University of Cyprus and the Beijing Institute of Education via the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus will lead to innovative and progressive collaborations in the academic, research and educational fields, which will pave the way for the “blossoming” of the already dynamic relationship between our two peoples.

At this point I would like to express the government’s gratitude to the People’s Republic of China and the Embassy of China in Cyprus for their support in the establishment and operation of the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus.

My appreciation extends also to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance for their contribution in making the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus a reality.

Source:

<http://www.pio.gov.cy/MOI/pio/pio.nsf/All/3B64F8020F4F57FCC2257D7E005D89FB?OpenDocument>