

# Press Release



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## Delegation from the University of Cyprus in Cairo, aiming to reinforce research collaboration between Cyprus and Egypt in the fields of archaeology and cultural heritage.

Representatives from the University of Cyprus visited Cairo between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 to explore possibilities for research collaboration between Cyprus and Egypt in the fields of archaeology and cultural heritage. The delegation from the University of Cyprus was led by the Head of the Department of History and Archaeology, Ass. Prof. Giorgos Papasavvas, accompanied by the Director of the Archaeological Research Unit, Prof. Vasiliki Kassianidou and Postdoctoral Researcher Dr Maria Dikomitou-Eliadou.

During the two-day visit, the delegation from the University of Cyprus met with the directors and heads of conservation and scientific research laboratories of the two largest museums in Egypt, namely the Grand Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation, as well as officials from the Ministry of Antiquities. Discussions were focused on reinforcing cooperation with the University of Cyprus and the MedSTACH project in archaeological research, the initiation of research ventures, the exchange of methodologies and research staff, as well as joint staff training events.

The visit was organised in the framework of the European-funded research initiative “Eastern Mediterranean Science, Engineering and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (MedSTACH)”, which aims at the establishment and operation of a Research and Technological Centre of Excellence in archaeology and cultural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean region, based on Cyprus, capitalising on multidisciplinary research and technological innovation. For the success of the MedSTACH project, the University of Cyprus joined forces with the Cyprus Technological University (leading partner), the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation. If MedSTACH is successful in its second phase of operation, it will be funded with 15 million euros from the European Commission, for a period of 5-7 years, with the possibility of an additional equal amount of national co-funding for a period of 15 years. The Egyptian authorities welcomed the MedSTACH initiative, expressing their interest in reinforcing research collaboration between Cyprus and Egypt.

The visit to Cairo came soon after the 5th Cyprus-Egypt-Greece summit held in Nicosia on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, where the three countries expressed their joint interest in preserving and protecting the cultural heritage of the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, as stated in the joint declaration of the summit. The University of Cyprus was also received by HE the Minister of Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr Khaled El-Enany. The University of Cyprus extends its gratitude to the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Cairo, for the support offered to the delegation prior and during this significant trip.

**Photos**

**1:** From the meeting with the Director of the Grand Egyptian Museum.

**2:** The University of Cyprus delegation with scientific personnel of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation.

**3:** From the courtesy meeting with HE the Minister and Deputy Minister of Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**End of announcement**