



Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου  
University of Cyprus

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> China-Cyprus Youth Forum**

### **Welcome Speech of Professor Tasos Christofides, Rector of the University of Cyprus**

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> China-Cyprus Youth Forum which is the capping stone of the continuous cooperation between the University of Cyprus and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Recently, the China-Cyprus Youth Forum has become a platform for creating space for dialogue among young people in Cyprus and China. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of the two countries to ensure that the youth of today and tomorrow are empowered and their voices are being heard. In this framework, hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> China-Cyprus Youth Forum is a special honour, since it is being held for the first time at the University of Cyprus.

Nelson Mandela once stated that 'The future belongs to our youth. As some of us are near the end of our political careers, younger people must take over'. Indeed, in today's world, changes are part of our everyday life and there is a need to educate young people and equip them with the necessary skills in order to react promptly and efficiently to the most important issues that our planet will have to face in the future. Therefore, it is our duty to develop individuals that will be able to think out-of-the-box, respect their peers and come together to bring about positive change in the world.

The University of Cyprus is proud to be ranked amongst the best 400 universities in the world. I am certain that, with its experience and know-how, the University of Cyprus will be a valuable partner to the Chinese Embassy, the University of International Business and Economics and the Shihezi University while at the

same time its cooperation with our Chinese partners will open new horizons and perspectives both in the areas of education, as well as research.

Let me reassure you that UCY fully supports all activities that are organized within the context of its cooperation with the Chinese Institutions, and the establishment of the Confucius Institute at UCY in 2014 is an excellent example of the fruitful cooperation between Cyprus and China in the fields of research, education and culture. In fact, the establishment of the Confucius Institute is of immense importance, as it operates as a hub for the promotion of education, research and innovation between Chinese academic institutions and UCY, while at the same time it is a reference point with the Chinese Diaspora in Cyprus.

Your Excellency Mr Ambassador of China, we sincerely thank you for your cooperation, your continuous support and the collaboration between the University of International Business and Economics, the Shihezi University and the Embassy of Cyprus in Beijing.

Finally, special thanks to all speakers and colleagues that have contributed to the organization of the Forum and the students for their participation.