

Address of the Minister of Communications and Works
Dr. Erato Kozakou–Marcoullis
on the signature of an Agreement on Research Cooperation
between the Cyprus Institute
and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Tuesday, 23rd of March 2010 4.00pm

It is with great pleasure that I have accepted your invitation to address today's ceremony on this special day for the Cyprus Institute. I have always been a strong supporter of the Institute's efforts to become an international high level educational and research centre attaching particular emphasis towards this direction especially during my term as Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus in Washington.

I would like to congratulate the Cyprus Institute because within a very short time-period from its establishment has emerged into an international worldwide accredited center which cooperates not only with Cyprus Academic and Research Institutions but also with similar centers around the world, in an attempt to develop research programs for important matters of high interest, not only to the Cypriot but also to the international community.

I would also like to congratulate the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens for today's Agreement with the Cyprus Institute which will bring the two Institutions more closely enhancing their cooperation and common actions on various projects.

Scientific research has a multidimensional influence on social, environmental, cultural, economic and political aspects. The Cyprus Government attaches great emphasis and acknowledges the leading role of scientific research. In this respect, one of the main priorities of the Cyprus Government is to become a regional centre of Research and Innovation, thus taking full advantage of Cyprus's unique geographical location, whilst exploring all the opportunities that arise from Cyprus accession to the EU.

The cooperation of Cyprus with other countries in the area of scientific research opens a window of opportunity to our research community to accede to enormous research programs of global dimension.

Today's agreement aims to enhance the cooperation between the two Institutes in the area of scientific research and to facilitate their work on common projects. Through this cooperation our country will benefit in terms of upgrading research and development as well as raising the relevant academic standards.

We must admit that our active involvement in the area of research and higher education is becoming a real challenge especially after our accession to the EU. This challenge requires the development of important research cooperation, synergies and exchange programs for academic scientists, researchers and students.

Concluding, I would like to emphasize that such initiatives, like today's agreement, serve towards achieving our objective in becoming an important regional centre for research and innovation.

I wish every success to the Cyprus Institute and a very fruitful and productive cooperation with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.