

Inauguration of the Nicosia Aula Cervantes at the University of Cyprus

The Nicosia Aula Cervantes, which is housed at the Social Facilities Centre of the New University Campus, was inaugurated on the 16th February 2011.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of the Rector of the University of Cyprus Professor Constantinos Christofides and the Director of the Instituto Cervantes in Sofia, Ms. Rosa Moro de Andrés, as well as of ambassadors, academics and other guests.

At the ceremony, the Rector of the University of Cyprus extended a welcome address, while the Ambassador of Spain to Cyprus H.E. Juan José Urtasun Erro, the Dean of the School of Humanities of the University of Cyprus, Prof. Andreas Papapavlou and the Director of the Instituto Cervantes of Sofia Ms. Moro de Andrés, all addressed the ceremony.

The creation of the Aula Cervantes at the University of Cyprus came after an initiative of the Spanish Government. Through the Aula, the Instituto Cervantes of Spain will be collaborating with the Language Centre of the University of Cyprus and with other institutions of Cyprus. The main goals of the Aula is the establishment of educational and cultural relations between Cyprus, Spain and other countries in the Hispanic world, the organizing of cultural events in Nicosia and other cities of the country, the provision of resources to the general public interested in the Spanish language and culture and the administering of the official examinations to obtain the Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE) at all levels, both at the Aula and other educational centres.

In his welcome note, the Rector placed emphasis on the importance of the Aula Cervantes for the University of Cyprus, which has been promoting the Spanish Language ever since its founding. He also added that the most important role of the Aula is the fact that “it will act as a means of enhancing the very essence of the European dream at whose foundations is inter-European cooperation and understanding.” Professor Christofides expressed his certainty that the opening of the Aula Cervantes at the University of Cyprus will further enhance the relations of the University with other university institutions of Spain.

The Ambassador of Spain to Cyprus, H.E Mr. Juan José Urtasun Erro, thanked the Rector, as well as the former Rector Professor Stavros Zenios for their contribution to the creation of the Aula Cervantes, and expressed his hope that it will act as a herald for the creation of an Instituto Cervantes in Cyprus. He also stressed the fact that the Spanish language is continuously spreading, and is today the second most common language in the world. The Aula, concluded Mr. Urtasun Erro, “will act as a valuable tool which will enrich multiculturalism in Cyprus and will promote access of the people of Cyprus to a language and a culture originating in the Mediterranean extended to the new world.”

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Andreas Papapavlou expressed his pride for the fact that the Aula Cervantes will be running under the auspices of his Faculty. Professor Papapavlou also spoke of the similarities between Spain and Cyprus, as well as of the Cypriot

and the Spanish people. However, the people in Cyprus are not well aware of Spain and its culture. This is a gap that the Aula will try to bridge.

The Director of the Instituto Cervantes of Sofia, Ms. Rosa Moro de Andrés, expressed her gratitude and her respect towards all those who worked hard towards the creation of the Aula at the University of Cyprus. Ms. Moro de Andrés added, “by offering Spanish, we are offering people Don Quijote, Borges' library, the novels by Garcia Marquez, but also the Cathedral of Burgos, the aqueduct of Segovia, the boulevards of Buenos Aires and a corner in Old Havana. We offer people our memories, our present and our future. Our life.”

The ceremony was followed by a reception with Spanish delicacies and music.

End of Announcement