

PRESS RELEASE

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UCY DELEGATION LED BY RECTOR VISITS FIVE LEADING ISRAELI UNIVERSITIES

Rector: “UCY plays key role in enhancing diverse and dynamic bilateral relations between Cyprus and Israel”



A delegation from the University of Cyprus (UCY), led by UCY Rector Prof. Constantinos Christofides, paid a visit to five leading academic institutions in Israel between February 10th and 15th 2017. The numerous contacts and visits have been part of UCY efforts to implement its new globalization strategy geared towards the goal of becoming a leading intellectual and economic engine for the region, while increasing dynamically the number of strategic partnerships. The Cypriot delegation received a warm welcome from senior management of the five universities – the IDC Herzliya University, the Ben-Gurion University (and its Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology), the Tel Aviv University, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and the Weizmann Institute of Science – that embraced the initiative for the mutual benefit.

Other members of the visiting delegation included Prof. Marios Polycarpou (Director of the KIOS Research Center for Intelligent Systems and Networks), Prof. Marios Dikaiakos (Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship), Prof. Fofi Constantinidou (Director of the Center of Applied Neuroscience), Assoc. Prof. Despo Fatta-Kassinou (Director of NIREAS, the International Water Research Center) and Assoc. Prof. Stavros Iezekiel (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering).

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During the five-day visit, the UCY delegation not only discussed with the senior managements of the five institutions ways to expand current collaboration and explore new ways to enhance it, but also met a cadre of outstanding researchers representing various disciplines.

UCY also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, which is considered to be one of the leading Israeli higher education institutions for modern communications. The Memorandum was signed by UCY Rector, Prof. Constantinos Christofides and Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya President and founder, Prof. Uriel Reichman. The partnership focuses on various issues, such as offering interuniversity study programmes, collaborating on joint research programmes, exchanging of students, faculty and administrative staff, as well as co-organizing conferences/ scientific workshops/ forums in Cyprus and Israel.

Speaking about the trip, UCY Rector thanked not only all five universities for the warm welcome and the positive outcome of the visit, but also the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Israeli Embassy in Cyprus and the Cypriot Embassy in Israel for their support and contribution, recalling the invitation already addressed to all of them during the visit to attend the inauguration event for the Learning Resource Centre "Stelios Ioannou" that is taking place this coming October.

In addition, Prof. Christofides has commented: *"UCY plays key role in enhancing diverse and dynamic bilateral relations between Cyprus and Israel. Aiming to become a leading intellectual and economic engine for Cyprus and the region, UCY expresses its satisfaction for having initiated the establishment of other significant strategic partnerships,*



expanding our collaboration with Israel's world-class universities. We hope to learn more on how Israeli universities can be so successful in becoming the economic engine of the nation. We are delighted that our universities will be working closely to boost the exchange of students, faculty and administrative staff, joint academic research, teaching and entrepreneurship. We trust that the frameworks that are already in place, and those that we are in the process of establishing, will result in stronger bilateral ties."

