

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Communication Office
Promotion and Development Section
University of Cyprus
Tel.: 22894304, Fax: 22894477
E-mail: prinfo@ucy.ac.cy,
Web-site: www.ucy.ac.cy/pr

Nicosia, 2 March 2017

UCY SIGNS STRATEGIC AGREEMENT WITH THOC

Rector: Maintaining its historic high-cultural role, UCY is honored to be engaging with a new cultural partner.

Prof. Constantinos Christofides, Rector of the University of Cyprus (UCY) and Dr. John Toumazi, Board Chairman of the Cyprus Theatre Organization (THOC) signed on Friday, February 24, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two institutions, aiming to establish a cultural hub in Nicosia that will strengthen direct dialogue, sharing of skills and a meaningful relationship between the education and cultural sectors, both in Cyprus and the broader region.

As major educational and cultural stakeholders in the island, they are entitled to enhance cultural engagement among their target audience, which is beneficial to the whole community as it strengthens social cohesion, societal engagement and active citizenship through awareness-raising on our cultural diversity.

Under the umbrella of this alliance - which formalizes synergies between education and culture - the two organizations will jointly develop various activities, such as training and educational seminars, lectures, theatrical, musical and dance performances. They are committed to achieving the main objectives of the MOU, that are the promotion of culture, education, research, innovation and the creation of culture 'outbreaks'.

"Culture is considered to be the petrol of countries that are rich in history and talent. In a global economy of knowledge, investing in culture represents a forward looking decision," declared the Rector at the signing Ceremony. *"The universities should not be reluctant in teaching the values and traditions of our culture and students should not be lacking the knowledge of the past,"* he added. *"Many young people today have never gone to the theater. The most exciting and valuable thing about having that experience nowadays is getting to see how people, society in crisis, use culture and art to respond, open dialogues and search for solutions. Cultural organizations, like THOC, through their activities, provide learning opportunities for all ages within formal and non-formal and informal settings, in a genuine lifelong approach. Maintaining its historic high-cultural role, UCY is honored to be engaging with a new cultural partner. I am confident that UCY and THOC will achieve a lot. Undoubtedly, the establishment of a Fine Arts State School at UCY will eventually result in building a stronger relationship between the two entities.*

As Dr. Toumazis stated: *"UCY community - which comprises mainly students, faculty and staff - represents a special group of the Cypriot society, with constant thirst for knowledge, search, cultural creativity and innovation. We are determined to reach out to this group and work together for the mutual benefit"*.

Upcoming joint activities

The theatrical production "The Notary" starring Iro Mane - a work written by playwright Nikos Vassiliadis, and directed by George Karamichas - will be put on the main stage of THOC between 30-31 March, 2017.

The UCY children's book *"Sofia: The bee who likes reading"* by Dimitris Baslam will be performed on stage, as a show-puppet theatrical play, with original live music. The adaptation of the book has been scheduled to be presented to all primary schools of Cyprus, aiming to contribute to the cultivation of a culture of knowledge search by school age and the understanding of terms such as innovation, research and science from that very early age.

End of announcement