## **Press Release**



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## HIGH-PROFILE OMANI DELEGATION VISITS UCY

Key objective: expand existing partnerships and develop new ones

A 12-member Omani delegation, led by President of the Omani State Council of the Lower House, Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasser al Mawaly and accompanied by Omani Ambassador in Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Sheikh Ahmed Al-Shanfari, has recently paid a visit to the University of Cyprus (UCY), in the framework of their official visit to the island. The aim of the official visit was to consolidate relations and enhance the existing cooperation between the two countries in all fields, including education.

The delegation was officially welcomed at UCY Campus by Rector, Prof. Constantinos Christofides and held detailed discussions with the UCY leadership, exploring potential avenues to strengthen the established cooperation and collaboration with the University in the fields of common interest. Special emphasis was given on exchange of faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students for study and research, as well as joint research activities. In his presentation about the University, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Finance and Administration, Prof. Constantinos Constantinou briefed initially the delegation on the broad spectrum of study programmes offered by UCY, emphasizing the ones currently offered or are being developed to be offered in English, since a significant number of its international students come from Oman; a number which has been continuously increasing in recent years. Additionally, the presentation gave an overview of the University's dynamic development, its latest achievements and its strategic goals for the decade, followed by a campus tour.

Thanking the University's leadership for the warm reception and the fruitful discussions, Mr. Al Mawaly stated that the delegation was very impressed with UCY's state-of-art infrastructure, its high-caliber faculty that includes the 2010 Nobel Winner in economic sciences, Professor Sir Christopher Pissarides, its recent achievements, as well as with University's vision and the direction that it aspires to take.

Both parties noted with satisfaction the long lasting collaboration between UCY and other Omani educational institutions and the Omani Embassy that eventually contributes to the enhancement of bilateral relations between the two countries. Moreover, they both acknowledged that delegation visits form an important part of the relationship-building and strategic planning required to make academic expansions possible. In conclusion, they expressed confidence that the current Omani high-profile delegation visit will allow for expanded or new academic partnerships between UCY and Omani educational and research entities.

**End of announcement**