

Welcome by Mr. Savvas Vergas, Mayor of Paphos
for the INTERNATIONAL LINKSCEEM HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CONFERENCE

Wednesday 7.10.2009 (8.30 am) • "The Annabelle Hotel", Paphos

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and privilege, on behalf of the Paphos, municipality to welcome you all to the International LinkSCEEM high performance computing conference. I would like to thank the organisers for their kind invitation.

I consider this conference very important for three main reasons:

The first is its significance in the scientific and technological development of Cyprus and the region. The use of high-performance computers comprises a modern and incredibly useful scientific tool which will contribute significantly in the advancement of the research activities of the scientific community in our region. The LinkSCEEM action will help bridge the gap between the scientific communities in the Mediterranean and the Middle East region as it will highlight an array of new opportunities for cross-border cooperation, as well as, develop new bonds and paths of communication.

The second reason is the importance of the LinkSCEEM action for the development and the establishment of the Cyprus Institute as an international standards institute. This action will pave the way for the newly-founded Computational-based Science and Technology Research Centre (CaSToRC) of the Cyprus Institute, which will perform research in the field of computational science and will try to facilitate the regional needs in computational power for a wide spectrum of applications and topics that are crucial to humanity such as climate change, cancer research. It is with great satisfaction that the Municipality of Paphos sees that the Cyprus Institute has in such a short time succeeded in its development into an important force for the promotion of scientific research in Cyprus and the wider region. This satisfaction also stems from the fact that our Municipality has developed a strong collaboration with the Cyprus Institute, with a prime example the establishment and development of the Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC). In this effort we are in partnership with the municipality of Geroskipou. It is worth mentioning that CaSToRC is expected to contribute substantially in a major research aspect of STARC, namely that of Digital Heritage.

The third and final reason for which I consider your conference of great significance is related to the location in which it takes place. It is my belief that the organisation of a such a high-calibre scientific meeting in Paphos, not only promotes our city but it also contributes to its establishment as an international centre of cultural and scientific activity.

In this spirit I would like to wholeheartedly welcome to Paphos the participants from abroad, and to wish them a pleasant stay on our island. I would like to congratulate the organizers of the conference, the Cyprus Institute and the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre, wishing them success in their planning.

I welcome you all to Paphos and I wish you a most productive conference for the benefit of science and progress. Thank you.