



Climate Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East

PROGRAM BROCHURE

26 - 28 September 2024 Radisson Beach Resort, Larnaca, Cyprus

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The conference will be livestreamed on The Cyprus Institute's YouTube Channel.

To view, please use the links below:

Pre - conference workshops (September 25, 2024): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0EPNhyNlek

Day 1 (September 26, 2024): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uq6A4tljeUc

Day 2 (September 27, 2024): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCyy_0KtKQE

Day 3 (September 28, 2024): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU-BLZ1wFTo The Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) region is a recognized climate change "hotspot." Recent data corroborates model projections, confirming that the catastrophic impacts of climate change will manifest here with exceptional intensity and increasing frequency. Moreover, the region's per capita greenhouse gas emissions surpass the global average and continue to rise. If we fail to depart from the "business as usual" approach and do not act with urgency and in a coordinated manner, the consequences for the half-billion people residing in this region will be nothing short of devastating. These impacts will reverberate globally.



The Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts, in collaboration with The Cyprus Institute (CyI), has organized the 2024 Conference on the Climate Crisis in the EMME Region. Amidst a backdrop of heightened political volatility and active conflict in the region—and fully cognizant of the horrific events currently unfolding—we gather to discuss, strategize, and act to prevent, or at least mitigate, what threatens to be the most significant impending disaster for the region's populations ever. The participation of numerous distinguished scientists and leading policymakers ensures that the dialogue between the scientific community and decision-makers will be substantive, facilitating the acceleration of regional, national, and transnational action.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I extend a warm welcome to all attendees of the International Conference on Climate Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. Thank you for your commitment and engagement in this most noble cause—combating an unprecedented challenge to our societies and our environment.

Professor Costas N. Papanicolas

Chair of the Organizing Committee President Emeritus, The Cyprus Institute Founding Member of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts The Conference on **Climate Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East** co-organized by the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts, and The Cyprus Institute, refers to a pressing issue of extreme importance not only for the region, but also for the world. It could be argued that we are facing not only a climate crisis, but a climate emergency, which necessitates immediate action.

As the National Academy of Cyprus, we consider sustainable development and equitable well-being as issues of great importance. Cyprus is a European country, but due to its geographical position it is close to both the Eastern



Mediterranean and the Middle East, regions which are widely recognized as principal climate change hot spots. The organization of this major international conference is one of the many initiatives we are currently taking regarding climate crisis.

Our perspective is that climate change should be addressed by applying solid scientific foundations. Furthermore, we strongly consider that critical issues should be considered from various perspectives. This Conference therefore examines not only environmental or technical issues of the climate crisis, but also wider aspects such as financial, legal and moral aspects.

The Conference has invited a broad spectrum of key stakeholders, including scientists, researchers and policymakers who will reflect on the scientific findings, with the aim of reaching scientific and policy consensus. I am certain that its proceedings will be fruitful, and that they will guide our further collective actions for the benefit of the entire region.

Professor Achilles Emilianides

President of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts

WELCOME MESSAGES

I would like to welcome you all to the international conference entitled "*Climate Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East*" organised by the **Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts** and **The Cyprus Institute**.

The Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) is among the areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This region, already marked by arid climates and scarce water resources, faces compounded challenges due to rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and an increase in extreme weather events. These environmental shifts threaten not only the natural ecosystems but also the socioeconomic stability of



countries in this region. The interplay between climate stressors and existing social, economic, and political tensions could trigger further instability. Water and resource scarcity can fuel inter-state and intra-state conflicts, especially in fragile countries. Additionally, mass displacement due to climate impacts could exacerbate migration crises, as seen in the influx of refugees into neighbouring countries, already struggling with their own resources.

To mitigate these impacts, governments must collaborate on regional climate policies, invest in adaptation strategies, and develop sustainable resource management practices.

The Cyprus Institute plays a crucial role in advancing the study of climate change in the EMME region. We spearhead interdisciplinary research on climate science, with a focus on understanding regional impacts and developing strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

This conference, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, marks the re-launching of the 2019-2022 initiative, known as Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, Climate Change Initiative (EMME-CCI).

Our aim is to bring together scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the region's unique climate challenges through evidence-based policies, while at the same time foster regional cooperation amidst critical political challenges.

Professor Stavros Malas President of The Cyprus Institute

PLENARY SESSION: PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS, REPORTS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

17:30 - 17:45	Introductions and Welcoming Address
17:45 – 18:45	Adapting to Climate Risks Challenges Convener: Natasa Pilides
	Presenters / panelists:
	The Role of Energy Storage for Decarbonizing the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Nestor Fylaktos
	Climate Health in the Urban Environment Jos Lelieveld
	Urban Overheating in the MENA Region: Prospects and Challenges Panos Hadjinicolaou
	Impacts of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage Nikolas Bakirtzis & Anthi Kaldeli
19:00 – 19:45	Transnational Cooperation to Address the EMME Climate Crisis Convener: Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis
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19:00 – 19:45	Convener: Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis Presenters / panelists: Climate change diplomacy to combat inequality
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19:00 - 19:45	Convener: Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis Presenters / panelists: Climate change diplomacy to combat inequality Elise Machline The Environmental Change-Migration-Conflict Nexus in the Mediterranean Manfred Lange The WEFE4MED PRIMA Community of Practice: Integrating Water, Energy, Food, and Ecosystems for a Sustainable Mediterranean

PROGRAM

DAY 1 T	hursday, 26 September 2024
08:00 - 08:30	Arrivals & Registration
08:30 – 09:30	Opening Session: Costas N. Papanicolas, Chair of the Organizing Committee Stavros Malas, President of The Cyprus Institute Achilles Emilianides, President of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts Maria Panayiotou, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus HRH Prince Hasan bin Talal of Jordan H.E. Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus
09:30 – 09:45	Break & Poster Set-up
09:45 – 10:45	I. The Evolving Climate Crisis: The Scientific Basis
	Convener: Jos Lelieveld Speakers/panelists: Philip Ciais, Diana Francis, Markku Kulmala, Jean Sciare
10:45 – 12:15	II. Mitigation Strategies & Challenges
	The Technological Challenge to Decarbonizing the Regional Economy Convener: Andreas Poullikkas Speakers/panelists: Bassam Dally, Brian Norton, Khaled Toukan
	The Socioeconomic Barriers to Decarbonizing the Regional Economy Convener: Theodore Zachariades Speakers/panelists: Loukas Christophorou, Charles Ellinas, Manal Sehabi
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 16:00	III. Impacts and Adaptation Pathways
13:30 – 14:15	Water-Food-Migration Nexus Convener: Fadi Comair Speakers/panelists: Hassan Janabi, Jacob Waslander, Nasser Yassin
14:15 – 15:15	Extreme Events (Heatwaves, Droughts, Floods etc., and Health) Convener: George Zittis Speakers/panelists: Mansour Almazroui, Robin Fears, Panos Hadjinicolaou, Marlene Tomaszkiewicz
15:15 – 16:00	Marine & Terrestrial Environment & Biodiversity Convener: Constantinos Kounnamas Speakers/Panelists: Nicolas Jarraud, Ioannis Karakassis, Naïm Ouaini
16:00 – 16:15	Break
16:15 – 16:45	Keynote Address Speaker: Ernest Moniz, Professor of Physics, MIT and former Secretary of Energy, USA
17:15 – 19:00	Wine and Cheese Reception & Poster Session (Filini Room)

PROGRAM

DAY 2 F	riday, 27 September 2024
08:30 – 09:00	Keynote Address Speaker: George Papanastasiou, Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Cyprus
09:00 - 10:30	III. (Continued) Impacts and Adaptation Pathways
09:00 - 09:45	Cultural Heritage Conveners: Nikolas Bakirtzis, Anthi Kaldeli Speakers/panelists: Ann Bourges, Mona Haggag, Androulla Vassiliou
09:45 – 10:30	The Challenge of the Urban Environment Convener: Costas Cartalis Speakers/panelists: Isaac Meir, Didier Roux, Roberto San José García
10:30 - 12:15	VI. Decarbonization Pathways
10:30 – 11:15	The Decarbonization Pathway as a Transformative Opportunity for the Regional Economies - the Role of Climate Enabling Technologies Convener: Fabio Montagnino Speakers/panelists: Thomas Andersson, Thanh-Tâm Le, Antonia Theodosiou
11:15 – 12:15	Plans for Mitigation and Adaptation of Relevance to the EMME Region Convener: Thanasis Hadzilacos Speakers/panelists: Gidon Bromberg, Hans Bruyninckx, Ibrahim Hoteit, Eleni Sophocleous
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:30 – 17:30	V. Removing the Barriers to Decarbonization
13:30 – 14:15	Financing Adaptation and Mitigation Measures Convener: Stavros Zenios Speakers/panelists: Andreas Milidonis, Angelo Riccaboni, Stavros Thomadakis
14:15 – 14:45	Keynote Address Speaker: Kurt Vandenberghe, Director General of DG CLIMA, European Commission
14:45 – 15:30	Legal and Constitutional Issues Convener: Achilles Emilianides Speakers/panelists: Odysseas Christou, Rafael J. Heffron, Maria Karamanof
15:30 - 15:45	Break
15:45 - 16:45	Climate Diplomacy Convener: Eleni Apegitou Speakers/panelists: Gideon Behar, Nikolaos Isaris, Theodoulos Mesimeris, Charalampos Theopemptou
16:45 – 17:30	Political, Societal and Cultural Barriers and Opportunities Convener: Kyriakos Demetriou Speakers/panelists: Thodoris Georgakopoulos, Tareq Abu Hamed, Anna Kyprianou
19:30 - 20:30	Cultural Event at Larnaca Castle
21:00 - 22:30	Dinner at Militzis Restaurant (Cypriot Cuisine)

PROGRAM

DAY 3 | Saturday, 28 September 2024

09:00 - 10:30	VI. Paving the Way Forward
09:00 - 09:45	Education and Outreach Convener: Andreas Demetriou Speakers/panelists: Costas Constantinou, Hany Helal, Annette Scheersoi
09:45 – 10:30	The Intangibles of Climate Change: Philosophy, Ethics and Values Convener: Stavros Photiou Speakers/panelists: Charafat Afailal, Charidemos Tsoukas, Didier Roux
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:15	Concluding Panel: From Here to the Future Convener: Costas N. Papanicolas Panelists: Achilles Emilianides, Hany Helal, Stavros Malas, Khaled Toukan, Tamar Zandberg
12:15 – 13:00	Closing Addresses Jeffrey Sachs, Professor at Columbia University and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Marilena Raouna, Deputy Minister for European Affairs, Cyprus

Conference Closes at 13:00



H.E. Dr Nikos Christodoulides President of the Republic of Cyprus



HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan



H.E. Dr Nasser Yassin Minister of Environment, Lebanon; formerly Professor of Policy and Planning at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon



H.E. Dr Maria Panayiotou Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus



H.E. Mr George Papanastasiou Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Cyprus



H.E. Marilena Raouna Deputy Minister for European Affairs, Cyprus



H.E. Ms Charafat Afailal International Expert on Water Resources, Former Minister in charge of water, Morocco



Prof. Mansour Almazroui Center of Excellence for Climate Change Research (CECCR), King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia



Prof. Thomas Andersson

President of the International Organisation for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development (IKED), Sweden; Director, Organisation for Quality and Innovation Strategies (Qualies), Oman



Ms Eleni Apegitou

Head, Economic, Climate, and Cultural Diplomacy Dept., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus



Prof. Nikolas Bakirtzis Director of Andreas Pittas Art Characterization (APAC) Laboratories & Associate Professor, The Cyprus Institute



H.E. Gideon Behar Ambassador, Special Envoy for Climate Change and Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel



Gidon Bromberg Israeli Director, EcoPeace



Dr Ann Bourges

Conservation Scientist in the Center of Research and Restoration of Collection in France (C2RMF), General Secretary of ICOMOS France



Prof. Hans Bruyninckx

University of Antwerp, Belgium; Member of the UN International Resource Panel; former Executive Director of the European Environment Agency



Prof. Constantinos Cartalis European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change; Professor of Environmental and Climate Physics at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece



Prof. Loukas G. Christophorou Academy of Athens & Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts



Dr Odysseas Christou Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Nicosia, Cyprus



Dr Philippe Ciais

French Academy of Sciences, Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (LSCE), France



Prof. Fadi Comair Professor, Energy, Environment & Water Research Center (EEWRC), The Cyprus Institute



Prof. Costas P. Constantinou Professor of Science & Education, University of Cyprus



Prof. Bassam Dally Professor, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Technology, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia



Prof. Andreas Demetriou Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts & Former Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus



Prof. Kyriakos Demetriou Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts & Professor, University of Cyprus



Dr Charles Ellinas CEO, EC Cyprus Natural Hydrocarbons Company Ltd (eCNHC)



Prof. Achilles Emilianides President, Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts & Professor and Dean of the School of Law of the University of Nicosia, Cyprus



Dr Robin Fears Advisor to the InterAcademy Partnership



Prof. Diana Francis Assistant Professor of Earth Science, Khalifa University, UAE



Dr Nestor Fylaktos Research Scientist, The Cyprus Institute



Thodoris Georgakopoulos Journalist and Author; Founding Member & Editorial Director of diaNEOsis, Greece



Prof. Panos Hadjinicolaou Associate Professor, The Cyprus Institute



Prof. Thanasis Hadzilacos Adjunct Professor at The Cyprus Institute



Prof. Mona Haggag Professor of Classical Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Alexandria, Egypt President of the Archaeological Society of Alexandria



Dr Tareq Abu Hamed Executive Director of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, Israel



Prof. Raphael J. Heffron

Professor for Global Energy Law & Sustainability at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee, Scotalnd, UK



Prof. Hany Helal

Professor, Cairo Faculty of Engineering and former Minister of Higher Education and State Minister for Scientific Research, Egypt



Dr Ibrahim Hoteit

Professor in the Earth Sciences and Engineering program and the Applied Mathematics and Computational Sciences program at KAUST, Saudi Arabia



Mr Nikolaos Isaris Head of Representation (chargé d'affaires), European Commission Representation in Cyprus



Dr Hassan Janabi Former Minister of Water Resources of Iraq;, Former Ambassador to UN Agencies in Rome, Tokyo & Ankara



Dr Nicolas Jarraud Senior Specialist, Global Water Partnership, Sweden



Dr Anthi Kaldeli Archaeological Officer, Dept of Antiquities, Cyprus; ICCROM Council Member



Prof. Ioannis Karakassis Director of Marine Ecology Lab, Biology Department, University of Crete, Greece



Dr Maria Karamanof President of the Chamber of Environment and Sustainability, Honorary Vice-President of the Council of State, Greece



Prof. Constantinos Kounnamas Director, Nature Conservation Unit, Frederick University



Mrs Anna Kyprianou Head of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee of the 6th House of Youth Representatives Cyprus



Prof. Manfred A. Lange

Director of the Future Earth MENA Regional Center & The Cyprus Institute



Prof. Jos Lelieveld German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Director of the Atmospheric Chemistry Department at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz & Professor at the University of Mainz and at The Cyprus Institute



Prof. Stavros Malas President of The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus



Prof. Markku Kulmala Professor of Aerosol and Environmental Physics (University of Helsinki) and Academy Professor and Academician of Science (Academy of Finland)



Dr Elise Machline Director of the Center for Climate Change Policy and Research, Israel



Dr Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus



Prof. Isaac A. Meir Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), Israel



Dr Theodoulos Mesimeris Director, Department of Environment, Cyprus



Prof. Andreas Milidonis Professor, Department of Accounting & Finance, University of Cyprus



Prof. Ernest Moniz

Co-Chair and CEO of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and President and CEO of the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI); Cecil Ida Green Professor of physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and former Secretary of Energy, USA



Mr Fabio Maria Montagnino

Senior Research Affiliate, The Cyprus Institute, Chair of the Governing Board, EIT Climate KIC



Prof. Brian Norton

Former Head of Energy Research at Tyndall National Institute; Former President of the Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland



Prof. Naïm Ouaini

Advisor to the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Advisor to the Minister of Public Health, Professor of Chemistry, the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), Lebanon



Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas Institute Professor & President Emeritus at The Cyprus Institute; the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts



Prof. Stavros Photiou Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts & Professor, University of Cyprus



Natasa Pilides Former Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Cyprus



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Prof. Didier Roux

French Academy of Sciences and Academy of Technology, Chair of the Board of Directors, The Cyprus Institute



Prof. Jeffrey Sachs Professor at Columbia University and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)



Dr Roberto San José García Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain



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Dr Thanh-Tâm Lê Director, Impact and Performance, transformation at national and subnational levels at Climate-KIC, Netherlands



Mrs Antonia Theodosiou Commissioner for the Environment of Cyprus



H.E. Dr Charalampos Theopemptou

Member of the House of Representatives of Cyprus; Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on the Environment



Prof. Stavros Thomadakis Prof. Stavros Thomadakis, Former Chairman of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission; Professor Emeritus of Finance, University of Athens, Greece



Dr Marlene Tomaszkiewicz Sustainable Development Officer, ESCWA - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UN



Dr Khaled Toukan Chairman of Jordan Atomic Energy Commission and Director of the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) Centre



Prof. Charidemos Tsoukas Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Cyprus Corresponding Member of Cyprus Academy, Letters and Arts



Mr Kurt Vandenberghe Director General of DG CLIMA, European Commission



Mrs Androulla Vassiliou Former European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth



Mr Jacob Waslander

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Director National Institute for Climate Policy Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev & Former Minister of Environmental Protection, Israel



Prof. Stavros Zenios

Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts & Professor of Finance and Management Science, Durham University and University of Cyprus, and Non-Resident Fellow at Bruegel



Dr George Zittis

Associate Research Scientist, Climate and Atmosphere Research Center (CARE-C), The Cyprus Institute

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National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change

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Prof. Ernest Moniz

Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Former Secretary of Energy, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, USA

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Prof. Jeffrey Sachs Columbia University, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), USA

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EASAC Chair, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Netherlands

Prof. Khaled Toukan

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, USA, Director of SESAME, Jordan

Prof. Christos Zerefos Academy of Athens, Greece

Tamar Zandberg Ben Gurion University, Former Minister of Environment, Israel

Prof. Stavros Zenios

Univ. of Cyprus, Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts

COMMITTEES

Local Organizing Committee

Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas

Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts & Professor The Cyprus Institute (Chair of the International Advisory Committee)

Mrs Maria Papapolyviou

Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts (Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee)

Mrs Eleni Sophocleous

Assistant Vice President of Policy and Internal Communications, The Cyprus Institute (Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee)

Mrs Stalo Gavrielidou

CREF Coordinator, The Cyprus Institute

Mrs Charis Hephaestou Head of Events, The Cyprus Institute

Dr Marco Neira Associate Research Scientist, The Cyprus Institute

Ms Melina Nicolaides Director of ACTIVATE Nonprofit Arts Organization

Mrs Avgi Stavrou Administrative Assistant, The Cyprus Institute

Dr Pavlos Tsiartas Head of Communications, The Cyprus Institute

Ms Veronica Charalambous Communications Officer, The Cyprus Institute



CYPRUS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, LETTERS AND ARTS

The Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts (CASLA) was founded by law as the supreme institution of Cyprus in sciences, letters, and arts, and began its operation in 2019. It aims to recognize, support and promote excellence in sciences, arts and culture, and to contribute to the proper assessment and search for solutions of problems facing our complex modern world for the well-being of the people. It is an independent and autonomous institution consisting of three Sections: Natural Sciences, Letters, and Arts (Humanities), and Ethical Sciences, Economic and Political Sciences (Social Sciences).

The Academy aims to enhance research and innovation in Cyprus and facilitate cooperation between universities, research institutions and industry in Cyprus, Europe and internationally, and provide society and the State scientifically sound analyses and solutions to problems. The Academy aspires to be a leading agent for strengthening the international standing of Cyprus through all domains of activity in science, letters, and the arts.



THE CYPRUS INSTITUTE

The Cyprus Institute (CyI) is a world-class, non-profit research and educational institution with a strong scientific and technological orientation. It is a regional Center of Excellence, addressing issues of regional interest but of global significance, with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary research and international collaborations.

Recognizing the unique geopolitical location of Cyprus as the southern and eastern-most state of the European Union, CyI is being developed as a gateway between the European Union and the Eastern Mediterranean - Middle East (EMME), and as an important research resource to help transform Cyprus into a knowledge-based economy and to advance the welfare of the island and the region.

Cyl started its operations in December 2007 and was developed to be international in its membership, independent in its support, but public in its commitment and service and devoted to the well-being of the local, regional and the international community.

The Cyprus Institute is also an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education that offers unique, high-quality Master's and PhD programs to select students from around the world and provides training to future researchers and scholars.

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