

**Address by the Mayor of Limassol Mr. Nicos Nicolaides at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinese Cultural Festival, 29 September 2018, at Limassol Municipal Garden**

Your excellency, Ambassador of the Republic of China

Dear Friends of the Xi'an delegation,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Municipality of Limassol, warmly welcomes you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinese Cultural Festival. Our city is proud to host, once again, such a prestigious event, and be a co-organiser together with the China International Investors Association, and the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus.

On behalf of the Municipal Council of Limassol I would like to extend a special welcome to the governmental delegation from Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province. We are honoured to sign an agreement of cooperation with the city of Xi'an, an important cultural, industrial and educational center of China. I am sure that our two cities will have a lot to benefit from sharing each other's knowledge and experiences in all the fields of common interest.

The second Chinese Cultural Festival, taking place at the beautiful premises of Limassol's Municipal Garden, will give the opportunity to the people of Limassol to get to know and appreciate the Chinese culture, through a variety of cultural performances, artifact exhibitions and authentic cuisine presentations.

I have no doubt that the high quality of the events which will take place during the course of this year's festival, will be a major step towards making the Chinese Cultural Festival an exceptional yearly happening. At the same time, the Festival will be gaining an increasingly stronger role in promoting the co-operation between Cyprus and China in the fields of economic exchange, tourism and culture.

Above all, this Festival is a tribute to the friendship between China and Cyprus between the people of Cyprus and the people of China. I would like to take this opportunity to, once again express on behalf of the Limassol Municipality, our deep appreciation to the hundreds of our Chinese friends, who live in Limassol. We are more than glad to be fellow citizens with them, together in our beautiful, hospitable city. A city, that has been shaped with the contribution of many people, of many origins, and of many cultures.

Once again I would like to congratulate the organizers and all the supporters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinese Festival.

I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.