

**Address by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr Nicos Nicolaides
at the celebration of the Chinese New Year 2020, 19 January 2020, Pattichion**

Your excellency, Ambassador of the Republic of China,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Municipality of Limassol, I would like to welcome you to our city for the celebration of the Chinese New Year, the year of the mouse. I would like to congratulate the China International Investors Association (CIIA), which is organizing these celebrations under direct guidance and special support by the Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Cyprus.

We are very happy and proud to host this most important festive celebration of Chinese culture, which is celebrated all over the world by Chinese families and communities.

The Chinese New Year has been celebrated in Cyprus for the last 10 years, and each year it has been growing larger and larger, with thousands of people of various ethnic background joining the Chinese people in celebrating the New Year.

The celebrations for the Chinese New Year will give the opportunity to the people of Limassol to get to know and appreciate the Chinese culture.

I have no doubt that the high quality of the events of this year's festivities, will make them a very strong force in promoting the cooperation between Cyprus and China in the fields of culture, economic exchange and tourism.

But above all, these celebrations are a tribute to the friendship between China and Cyprus. Between the people of Cyprus and the people of China. And I would like to take this opportunity, to 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 Chinese New Year Celebrations.

I wish you all an enjoyable day.