

BY: ATHINA FRANGOULI SELIPA

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UCY STUDENTS ARE OFFERED TRAINEESHIP AT HUAWEI IN CHINA

Participation in HUAWEI's "Seeds for the Future Programme" within the framework of UCY-HUAWEI strategic partnership

The University of Cyprus (UCY) and Huawei Technologies (Cyprus) Co. Ltd have recently announced the names of the six (6) students who will be participating in Huawei's "Seeds for the Future Programme 2017", in the framework of the cooperation agreement signed by the two parties in May 2016. During the two-week programme, the undergraduate students - this year coming from the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering - learn firsthand about China and its technology industry, while having training in Huawei Shenzhen labs, brief courses of Chinese language, sightseeing tours for Shenzhen and Beijing and learning Chinese culture. Its aim is to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) careers and skills, as well as to forge better understanding and closer links between Cyprus and China.

As the UCY Rector, Professor Constantinos Christofides stated *"This day, is a strong affirmation of the close cooperation between UCY and China, a cooperation that was formalized with the establishment of the Confucius Institute at the UCY in October 2014. Ever since, it has been one of UCY's major goals to promote collaboration, not only with Chinese academic institutions, research centres and science parks, but also with companies that can have an impact on its research, educational status and contribution to innovation"*.

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The Minister of Education and Culture Dr Costas Kades congratulated the two parties saying that the agreement opens up new paths regarding connectivity of researchers, academics and students at an international level, while adding that he is pleased to see that the efforts towards cooperation are not limited between the countries at a State level, but they take shape and are initialising with such programs. *“I am certain that the participants will gain a life-changing experience,”* he concluded.

The Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in Cyprus Mr. Huang Xingyuan noted that innovation, as the engine for the economic and social development, is not only the key for China to improve its economic quality and efficiency, but also the driving force for the economic restructuring and upgrading in Cyprus. *“We are ready to work together with the Cypriot side for more cooperation in the talents cultivation, science and technical exchanges, industry communication with the common goal of both countries’ constant development,”* he added.

The country manager of Huawei Technologies (Cyprus) Co. Ltd Mr Li Zheng presented the company that ranks 129th on the *Global Fortune 500* and is a proud supporter of education, adding *“This collaboration will give us the opportunity to reduce the gap between knowledge learned in the classroom and the skills required by the ICT industry, in order to enhance knowledge transfer to skilled students and provide them opportunities to learn and apply the latest technology innovations.”*

The last year participants were also given the opportunity to give a short presentation on their immense experience. As they stated, they had been offered the rare opportunity to deepen their academic knowledge in practice, along with high-caliber practitioners in their field, as well as to get acquainted with the amazing Chinese culture.
