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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 OKtKQE

Day 3 (September 28, 2024):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU-BLZ1wFTo

WELCOME MESSAGES

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

WELCOME MESSAGES

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

PROGRAM

20:00

PLENARY SESSION: PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS, REPORTS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Wednesday	7, 23 3 5 5 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C
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
	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 Fadi Comair

Welcome Cocktail Event - The Waves Beach Bar Radisson Beach Hotel

PROGRAM

DAY 1 | Thursday, 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)

DAY 2 | Friday, 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 Apeyitou

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 ChristodoulidesPresident of the Republic of Cyprus



HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan



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



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



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



H.E. Marilena RaounaDeputy Minister for European Affairs, Cyprus



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



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



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



Ms Eleni Apeyitou

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 FrancisAssistant Professor of Earth Science, Khalifa University, UAE



Dr Nestor FylaktosResearch Scientist, The Cyprus Institute



Thodoris GeorgakopoulosJournalist 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



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President of the Archaeological Society of Alexandria



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



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Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee, Scotalnd, UK



Prof. Hany HelalProfessor, 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



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



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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



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Former Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Cyprus



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



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Director General of DG CLIMA, European Commission



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Envoy to the Middle East and North Africa for Water, Energy and Food, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands



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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



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

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American Academy of Arts and Sciences, USA

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Académie des Sciences, France

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Chair of the PRIMA Foundation, Barcelona, Spain

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Columbia University, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), USA

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Prof. Stavros Zenios

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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)

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Dr Pavlos Tsiartas

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Ms Veronica Charalambous

Communications Officer, The Cyprus Institute

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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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