

# O Kosmos Mas



CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY • KIBRIS KIZIL HAÇ CEMİYİTİ • ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ

## MEETING WITH THE AUSTRIAN RED CROSS REGARDING THE RECOGNITION PROCESS OF THE CYPRUS RED CROSS (CRCS)



The former Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Cyprus, Dr Eva Hager, was instrumental in organising the meeting between the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) and the Austrian Red Cross (ARC), which was held in Vienna, Austria, on 27 January 2010.

The CRCS delegation was led by Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou, the President of CRCS, Mrs Leda Koursoumba, the Vice President, and Mr Takis Neophytou, the Director General. The ARC delegation was led by Mr Wolfgang Kopetzky, the Secretary General of ARC, Mr Werner Kerschbaum, the Assistant Secretary General, and Mrs Emilie Goller, the ARC officer responsible for the hospitality programme. Dr Eva Hager also participated at the meeting.

The main subject of the meeting was the recognition of CRCS by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereafter referred to as the International Movement). The members of the Cyprus delegation briefed ARC fully about CRCS and its activities. Furthermore, the Cyprus delegation requested formally ARC's support for the recognition of CRCS by the International Movement. Despite the reservations expressed initially at the start of the meeting, the two ARC representatives stated, before the conclusion of the meeting, that they were convinced of the right of the request made by CRCS and that they would support the recognition of CRCS by the International Movement.

During their stay in Vienna, the members of the Cyprus delegation visited the impressive ARC Blood Donation Centre that covers the need in blood transfusion for the whole country. They also visited the ARC Disaster Response Centre that has huge warehouses with vast quantities of equipment and humanitarian aid. The Centre houses the Disaster Management Centre, the Education Centre and other ARC services.

Both sides considered the visit by CRCS to be very beneficial to both parties. Over and above the subject of the recognition, other subjects of mutual interest were also discussed, such as a future collaboration of the two organisations, as well as ways and means by which ARC could assist and support CRCS.

## PAEDIKO ANARROTIRIO (HOME FOR SICK CHILDREN)

Within the framework of the effort to resolve the serious economic and operational difficulties facing the Paediko Anarrotirio (PA – Home for Sick Children), the PA Management Committee (MC) held meetings with the PA Matron and personnel and discussed with them the difficulties concerned. Discussions were also held at all levels concerning actions required in order to save the PA.

After the proposal made by the MC and many deliberations thereafter, the CRCS Executive Committee decided that the best solution in order to at least save the PA would be to close down the operation of KIFA (Day Care Centre for the Rehabilitation of Adults). The main reason that dictated the decision taken was the excessively high operating cost.

The annual operational cost for the children alone was €150.000 for personnel and an additional €50.000 for other expenses. An additional reason for the decision taken was the fact that the grant received from the Government was much smaller than expected. In brief, the operating cost that CRCS had to cover was way above its available resources. Pursuant to the decision taken, the posts of nine staff members were considered as redundant, which will reduce PA's annual expenses by almost half.

In the meantime, the PA MC undertook to consider how to reorganise the PA and expand the services provided.

The above effort comes under the implementation of the NGO Fund that began in September 2009. The program provides for the purchase of equipment, installation, repairs, one physiotherapist's annual salary, and personnel training seminars.

With regard to personnel training seminars, on 2-4 February a seminar (photo) was organised at the PA, on the subject of **Communication, Learning and Quality of Life for children with severe disabilities**. The seminar was attended by 34 professionals from almost all the schools and institutions of Cyprus that deal with children with specialised needs. The seminar was conducted by Mr Knut Slatta and Mrs Mette Lovas from Norway.



## CRCS signs the Rome Consensus

Cyprus was the 121st country in the world to sign the Rome Consensus that was first agreed upon in December 2005. The pact dictates the configuration and implementation policy of the RC/RC Humanitarian Policy on drugs. The pact was signed on behalf of CRCS by Mr Takis Neophytou, the Director General, during a special ceremony, at the **Rome Consensus Conference**, which was held in Rome from 13 to 15 December 2009. The conference was also attended by Ms Thalia Vourkidou, CRCS's Secretary.

## European Network for Psychosocial Support Forum 2010 (ENPS 2010)

The subject of the conference, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 16 to 18 October 2009, was **"Stress awareness and management. Do we practise what we preach?"** The conference, on such a subject of major importance, offered the opportunity to the volunteers that provide psychosocial support to the victims of all forms of unfavourable incidents, to look after not only the victims, but also themselves. CRCS was represented by Dr Christos Stefanou, President of the newly established Health and Psychosocial Support Committee.

## «Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting»

The objective of the meeting, that took place at the offices of the Europe Zone in Budapest, Hungary, from 21 to 22 October 2009, was to brief on and plan the actions that the RC/RC NS would have to take in the event of a flu pandemic. The coordinators informed the participants about A H1N1 and the IFRC actions taken thereon. During working group sessions, the participants were also provided with the opportunity to talk about the activities on the subject concerned in their respective countries. CRCS was represented by Ms Thalia Vourkidou, Secretary.

## Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) in Cyprus



The **Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO)** took place for the first time in Cyprus with great success. It was held in Larnaca from 22 to 23 October 2009, under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Neoclis Sylikiotis.

migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Cyprus.

The meeting was attended by 26 representatives of RC National Organisations of Europe and by the representative of the CRCS, Mrs Andri Agrotis.

The social programme, undertaken by the Larnaca Branch of CRCS, included



At the opening ceremony on 22 October 2009, welcoming addresses - together with PowerPoint presentations - were delivered by the CRCS President, Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou and the Director General, Mr Takis Neophytou. The Chairman of the European Platform, Mr Dejan Ukropina and the Minister of the Interior also delivered welcoming addresses. The Minister also briefed the participants on the current situation concerning the problems faced by the

dinner on Thursday, 22 October, at a traditional Cypriot tavern, and a guided tour of the Pierides Museum, on Friday, 23 October. Arrangements were also made for the participants to visit the Reception Centre for Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers at Kophinou.

CRCS expresses its sincere thanks to Mrs Marie Severi and Mrs Micheline Sevan who were instrumental in the organisation and smooth running of the conference.

## Pan European Conference in Athens

The conference on **Good Practices regarding Volunteerism aiming at empowering the Immigrants**, was held in Athens from 10 to 11 December 2009. The conference was attended by Mrs Loria Markides, President, Mrs Andri Agroti, Secretary, and Mrs Yiola Philippou, member all, of the CRCS Nicosia Branch.

## Road Safety Year Targeting the Youth

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, HE, Mr Demetris Christofias, contributes personally to the road safety campaign targeting the youth. New members sign the European Road Safety Charter on 14 January 2010, at the Presidential Palace.



**H**E the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Demetris Christofias contributes personally to the efforts to reduce the number of victims from road accidents in 2010, which has been declared as **The Road Safety Year targeting the Youth**. President Christofias welcomed, at the Presidential Palace, the new members that had signed the European Road Safety Charter and honoured them, together with those who had signed the Charter previously, by presenting them with plaquettes. In his welcoming speech, the President, inter alia, said:

*"We are determined to achieve a drastic reduction in the number of road accidents in general, but also more specifically those involving young people. Our tool in achieving this is the mobilisation of the entire government machine,... together with the Youth Organisation, the universities, the schools, the young people of Cyprus in general, but also together with the Local Authorities that have signed the Charter and the society as a whole total"*

The Charter was signed by 22 Cyprus organisations, institutions and Local Authorities, one of which is CRCS that has renewed its commitment by strengthening, even more, the social alliance for Road Safety in Cyprus.



## CRCS ORGANISES AN EXCURSION TO INDIA IN NOVEMBER 2010

**F**ollowing the very successful excursion to China last year, CRCS is organising an excursion to India, which will take place from 6 to 20 November 2010, for 50 to 60 members, volunteers and friends,

The program includes visits to: New Delhi, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Pushkar, Jaipur, Agra, Khajuraho, Varanasi and Sarnath. The flight will be with the Emirates airlines of Dubai. The trip also includes three internal flights and one travel by train.

The cost of participation is €1.300 per person, sharing a twin room, plus the cost of the air ticket Larnaca – New Delhi - Larnaca. Single room occupancy comes with an extra charge of €586.

The price includes:

- ✓ Five- star hotel accommodation, breakfast and dinner
- ✓ Excursions
- ✓ Internal travel (bus, train, plane)
- ✓ Entry passes at sights
- ✓ A Rickshaw ride in New Delhi, a cruise on a lake in Udaipur, attending a traditional cultural program in Jaipur, an elephant ride, a camel ride in Jaipur, a sound and light show in Khajuraho, a boat trip on the river Ganges, a sunset cruise in Vavanasi
- ✓ An English speaking guide and an English speaking escort

Because of heavy demand, the excursion is already fully booked.

## 2010 Desk Calendar



**C**RCS, continuing its tradition, which had started a few years ago, produced and circulated a desk calendar for 2010. The calendar was dedicated to the Paediko Anarrotirio (PA – Home for Sick Children) children. The pictures reproduced in the calendar were painted by PA children. The dedication of the 2010 calendar to the PA children also aims to further inform and sensitise the public at large to the PA's very special and most valuable contribution, calling on all of us to help ensure the continuation of the PA's activities.

The publishing of the 2010 calendar was enabled through a generous contribution of the Lanitis Bros Company, to which CRCS expresses its sincere thanks.

## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

**D**uring the meeting of the CRCS Council, the 2008 Annual Report was also presented. The report, which is in English, was in the new improved format of the previous report, including many photographs taken during a large number of varied events and activities undertaken by CRCS during 2008.



## ACTIVITIES OF THE BRANCH

### NEWS OF ALL THE BRANCHES & THE YOUTH SECTION

#### TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

- The Bazaar of the Limassol Branch, organised together with the Municipality of Ayios Athanasios, was held on 5 December 2009, at the Town Hall.
- On Sunday, 20 December 2009, in a beautiful Christmas atmosphere at The Mall of Cyprus, in Nicosia, the traditional Christmas Bazaar of the Youth Section was held with a large number of visitors. The Bazaar, which was opened by Mr Nicos Shakolas, was held under the auspices of the CRCS President Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou. Similar to last year, Alpha Bank Cyprus Ltd as part of its social responsibility was the official sponsor of the Bazaar.



- On Sunday, 20 December 2009, the Kyrenia Branch held its Christmas Bazaar at Eleftheria Square (see photograph below).



- The Famagusta Youth Section also organised a Christmas Bazaar on 20 December, at the Ayios Georgios Square in Paralimni.

### ALL BRANCHES AND THE YOUTH SECTION

- The offering and support provided to foreigners, asylum seekers and their families continues
- Christmas Parcels were distributed
- On 23 November, the vaccination against the flu virus A H1N1, with the help of CRCS volunteers started
- All Branches and the Youth Section held special meetings and cut the 2010 Vassilopitta (traditional New Year's cake)



### NICOSIA BRANCH

- On Wednesday, 28 October 2009, it held a very successful charity Barbeque at the Eleon Swimming Pool. The Branch wishes to extend many thanks to the owners of Eleon Pleasure Park Ltd and the Eleon Director and staff for the complimentary donation of the venue, the free use of equipment and the voluntary help from the staff
- Between Thursday 19 and Sunday 22 November 2009, a special Clothing and Footwear Market was held at the Branch's premises
- Between October and December 2009, thirty eight wheel chairs were distributed to the needy

### LIMASSOL BRANCH

- On 11 October, the Branch participated in the one day ESSEL Bazaar with two kiosks selling Coca Cola products (donated by the company) and clothing. Actor and member of the Branch, Mr. Andreas Fylaktou was instrumental in its success



- During the period of October - December 2009, specialised activities of the Branch resulted in the collection of 505 blood bags, which were delivered to the Limassol Hospital
- During the same period breakfast was offered to 45 needy students
- On 14 December, the Branch donated 600 children's track suits to the Paediatric Department of the Limassol Hospital

## WOMEN AND YOUTH SECTION

### FAMAGUSTA BRANCH

- The annual charity event was held at the Sun Hall hotel, on 25 November, under the auspices of CRCs's President Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou. The net proceeds amounted to €10.756,92
- Contributed to the medical expenses of two children, as well as to a medical visit abroad of a woman. All three were from the Avgorou village
- Donations to various foundations, kindergartens, old people's nursing homes and poor families in the Larnaca and Famagusta areas



- The Christmas Lunch was held on 13 December 2009, under the auspices of the CRCs's President, Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou. All net proceeds were donated to the Paediko Anarrotirio



- The Branch contributed to the medical expenses for an eye operation abroad of a child from Livadia

### PAPHOS BRANCH

- The Annual General Assembly of the Branch was held on 4 November 2009
- On 2 December 2009, the Branch participated in the Christmas Bazaar of the Anglican Church in Paphos

### KYRENIA BRANCH

- The annual afternoon tea was held at the Hilton Park Hotel, on 14 October 2009



- The annual excursion for old people and singles, which this time round was to the Saint Lazarus Church in Larnaca, took place on 17 October 2009
- The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held on 12 November 2009

### YOUTH SECTION

- Distributed gifts to the children of the Paediko Anarrotirio, which were generously donated by the Frederick University

### LARNACA BRANCH

- In her will, Ioanna Argyrou Pierides, a great supporter of the Red Cross, bequeathed her house with all its furnishings to the Paediko Anarrotio
- On 3 November, the Branch participated in the "on paper exercise in case of an emergency", which was held at the Hermes International Airport
- On 4 December 2009, during Volunteerism Week, members of the Branch donated a CD player and 60 mouse pads to the children of the Kitio Elementary School



- Three scholarships were offered to African students (from Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) from the proceeds received in memory of the husband of the Branch's President, Mrs Chrystalla Pantelidou
- An electric heater donated by the Branch to a poor family was a generous contribution received from the Cyprus Telecommunication Authority (CYTA)

## Grecian Bay Hotel guests' contribution in favour of CRCS

The management of the Grecian Bay Hotel has generously agreed to participate in the CRCS Project, whereby hotel guests are encouraged to donate in favour of CRCS. The first contribution received through the project for the period up to January 2010 was €2.862. CRCS thanks the hotel management for their support.

## Chris Lamb visit in Cyprus

During the first week of February, Mr Chris Lamb, a very good friend of CRCS, who had recently retired from the IFRC, visited Cyprus. The main objective of the visit was to sign an agreement with the Alexandria



(Egypt) Patriarchate, to which Mr Lamb will be providing his services as an adviser on humanitarian diplomacy. During his stay in Cyprus, Mr Lamb also had informal meetings with all his friends at CRCS including the President, the Vice President, the Director General and the Secretary, as well as with his very good friend the Bishop of Tamasos and Highlands Mr Isaiahs. During the dinners hosted in his honour, both by CRCS and the Bishop, the participants had the opportunity to discuss many subjects of common interest, as well as the very important and current topic of the recognition of CRCS by the International Movement.

## An Agreement with Government Records

The Government Records Department has agreed to classify, digitise and maintain all the messages of the 1974 invasion, the safekeeping of which had been to date the responsibility of CRCS. The messages have already been delivered to the Government Records Department. Copies of all the messages in a digital form will be given to CRCS, together with 50 originals.

## Repair works to the main offices of CRCS began

After the meeting and the generous support of the Civil Defense (CD), the repairs to the building of the main offices of CRCS have begun. The unstable subsoil and the occasional earthquakes had worsened the situation to such an extent that the building was considered to be unsafe. The repairs will take approximately 12 months to complete and the total cost is expected to exceed €80.000. During the meeting held between CRCS and the CD, it was decided that 82.5 per cent of the cost will be borne by the CD and the balance of 17.5 per cent, by CRCS.

## Work on the construction of the new building for the Paphos Branch has begun

The CRCS Director General and Treasurer signed in Paphos, on 8 December 2009, the contracts for the construction of the new Paphos Branch building. Work has already begun and is progressing according to plan. The work is expected to be completed this summer. The construction of the building will cost €140.000. The plot of land for the construction of the building was donated by the Government of Cyprus.

## The Limassol Branch Building

The Technological University of Cyprus (TEPAK) is planning to construct new buildings for the University on the land where the Limassol Branch offices are currently located. Accordingly, the Branch has been asked to vacate the premises as soon as possible. Various efforts have been made by the Limassol Branch President and the Committee, together with the CRCS Headquarters, requesting the Government to provide an alternative plot to build new premises for the Branch.

After numerous meetings held with TEPAK, the latter promised to donate to the Branch an amount, as compensation, which, together with another amount bequeathed by Maximos is expected to cover part of the cost of the new building. The fact that there were no suitable plots of land available, prompted the Branch to consider purchasing a house in the city centre, which proved to be too expensive and way above the financial capacity of the Branch. The efforts in that regard are continuing, with the active support and initiative of the Headquarters of CRCS, following a decision taken by the Executive Committee.

## YOUR BEST DEFENCE IS YOU

CRCS, very sensitive on health matters, and within its framework of social policy, and following the directives of the International RC/RC Movement, produced six posters, A3 size, with the slogan **YOUR BEST DEFENCE IS YOU**, which show the five practical steps that each and everyone of us must follow in order to prevent the spreading of the flu pandemic in the event that it reappears. The posters have been sent for distribution to all the Branches, as well as to the Ministry of Health, to hospitals, clinics, schools, universities and colleges throughout Cyprus.



## New people at CRCS

- Mrs Morfia Fereos and Bishop Tamasou and Orinis, Mr Isaiahs, are the two new members of the CRCS Council, who were elected during the Council's Meeting held on 17 February 2010, replacing members who had resigned
- The distinguished former Ambassador of Cyprus, Mrs Loria Markides, has assumed the very important **Presidency of the Nicosia Branch**



- Dr Christos Stefanou, a doctor at the Nicosia General Hospital, assumed the Presidency of the newly established **CRCS Health and Psychosocial Support Committee**. The committee, which held its first meeting on 1 December 2009, is also planning the organisation of a seminar on educating the instructors
- Another new CRCS executive is Mrs Baitzar Gazarian, Head of the Department of Welfare at the Frederick University, who has assumed the Presidency of the newly established **Volunteer Committee**



# HAITI

## Collection for the earthquake victims



Following the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010 in Haiti, CRCS made a donation and announced a collection campaign in favour of the country's earthquake victims. The collection campaign continues and the public is invited to continue its contribution / donation as generously as possible.

For the purpose of the collection campaign the following bank accounts have been opened:

Bank of Cyprus	Account Number	113 – 05 – 057950 – 00
Marfin Laiki Bank	"	070 – 31 – 084482
Hellenic Bank	"	121 – 12 – 397610 – 00
Alpha Bank Cyprus Ltd	"	202 – 101 – 004933 – 9
cdb Bank	"	101010001707016
Piraeus Bank	"	340309
Central Cooperative Bank	"	010-40-02708-6
National Bank of Greece	"	5275162462

The CRCS Branches, within the framework of the project to collect as much as possible for the victims, organised a collection campaign at Supermarkets and Multishop stores on 29 and 30 January 2010.

CRCS proposes to combine all the contributions received by the organised groups and to undertake, on behalf of all of them, the construction of a major project in Haiti that will represent the Cyprus Contribution - similar to the Hospital which was built in Sri Lanka through Cyprus contributions to the victims of the tsunami (Christmas 2004).



## OTHER NEWS



At a ceremony held at the Central Offices of CRCS, the President of the Electricity Authority Cyprus Professional Employees Union (SEPAIK), Mr Sotos Savva (in the middle) gave Mrs Fotini Papadopoulos, CRCS President, the amount of €1.600, contributed by the SEPAIK members for the Haiti earthquake victims.



At another ceremony held at the Grammar School in Nicosia, the Director General of the School, Mr Akis Gregoriou, gave CRCS President Mrs Fotini Papadopoulos the sum €2.500, a contribution made by the students and personnel of the school. On behalf of CRCS, Mrs Papadopoulos thanked Mr Gregoriou and asked him to convey her congratulations to all concerned for their humane sentiments that had dictated their contribution.

## Diary of Events

- 1 Dec First meeting of the Health and Psychosocial Support Committee
- 2 Dec Paphos Branch participation In the Anglican Church Bazaar
- 5 Dec Christmas Bazaar together with the Ayios Athanasios Municipality, Limassol Branch
- 10-11 Dec Participation in the Athens Conference on Immigrants
- 13 Dec Christmas Lunch, Larnaca Branch
- 13-15 Dec Rome Consensus, conference on drugs CRCS signs the Consensus
- 20 Dec Christmas Bazaars:  
Youth Sections (Nicosia, Kyrenia and Morphou), the Mall of Cyprus, Nicosia Kyrenia Branch, Eleftheria Square, Nicosia Famagusta Youth Section, Ayios Georgios Square, Paralimni
- 30 Dec CRCS Lottery Ticket Draw
- 26 Jan Car Delivery to the CRCS lottery ticket winner
- 27 -28 Jan Meeting with Austrian RC, Vienna
- 2-4 Feb Seminar at the Paediko Anarrotirio by Norwegian instructors  
Opening Ceremony by the Ambassador of Norway in Greece and Cyprus
- 4 Feb Mr Chris Lamb visit in Cyprus
- 17 Feb CRCS Council Meeting
- 21-24 Feb Participation in the Conference and Seminar of the Spanish Presidency and Spanish RC in Madrid
- 5 Mar Embassy of Romania Fashion Show, CYTA offices  
Nicosia Branch
- 7 Mar Tree Planting at Kornos, Youth Section
- 14 Mar 26th Youth Section Conference, Marfin Laiki Sporting Club
- 14 Apr Fashion Show of the Grammar School at the Four Seasons Hotel, in favour of the Limassol Branch
- 2 Jun Fashion Show by Elena Antoniadis, Nicosia Branch
- 9 Jun Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show, Youth Section
- 13 Oct Afternoon Tea at Hilton Park Hotel, Kyrenia Branch

## THE CRCS CAR LOTTERY TICKET DRAW

The draw of the CRCS lottery ticket took place on 30 December 2009. The winner was Mr Yiannakis Ioannou, holder of ticket number **00775**. The CRCS lottery tickets were circulated in order to collect money in favour of the Paediko Anarrotirio. The prize was a Peugeot 207 Trendy car, valued at €12.850, which was generously donated by MPM Eurocars, agents of Peugeot cars in Cyprus.



*Mr Takis Neophytou, the CRCS Director General hands over the car keys to Mr Yiannakis Ioannou in the presence of the Nicosia Peugeot Office Manager Mr Demetris Mena.*

The car was delivered to Mr Ioannou on 26 January 2010, at the central offices of MPM Eurocars.

CRCS congratulates the winner and reiterates its thanks to MPM Eurocars for their generous donation.

## Tree Planting

On Sunday, 7 March 2010, the Youth Section, together with the Land Consolidation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, planted trees in the Kornos area. The ceremony was opened by the CRCS President Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou, and was followed by a welcoming address delivered by the newly appointed Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Mr Demetris Eliades. As highlighted by the Minister, members of the Youth Section of Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Kyrenia, planted hundreds of trees not only in order to "upgrade the environment, but also in order to replace in tenfold the uprooting of about 6,800 trees as a result of the construction of the two lane Alhambra - Nicosia road."



## Membership Subscription

At its meeting held on 24 November 2009, the Executive Committee decided to increase the annual CRCS membership fee from €5 to €10.