

**Address by Associate Professor George Kazamias,
Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Cyprus
on behalf of the Rector of the University of Cyprus, Professor Constantine
Christofides.**

I think it is commonplace to say that we live in a time of crisis. An economic crisis, a crisis of values, a crisis of society, even a crisis of scientific ethics, one could say.

Based on historical experience, we can observe that in times of crisis such as the one we are living in, people and societies turn to competing for resources that are now rare, while at the same time challenging institutions and structures, thus claiming at times as a victim the very cohesion of society. In this context, we live today within an atmosphere of contempt, frustration, pessimism and lack of vision.

In such times, any effort for intellectual cultivation and scientific uplifting, as is the one whose birth we are now witnessing, is comforting, a real bright guidepost.

An effort that aspires to escape the narrow limits of a scientific field, to tear down the divisions of knowledge and to succeed in making a dash forward in the field of Aristotelian studies. With solid foundations in philosophy from which it begins and which it initially serves, with assistance from technology and open roads to adjacent and nonadjacent scientific fields, the "Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies" begins today its journey.

The fact is that this effort begins in hard times, and even harder for the humanities. But this further increases the value of the initiative, because one realizes something which many accept as a principle, but few dare: by the establishment of the "Interdisciplinary Centre for

Aristotle Studies", Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, does not simply add a necessary element to its organization. It shows in deed that the future lies in research and education that is given through the constant search in the broad field of science. It is clear, and it becomes all the more clear, that societies who will understand this and invest in knowledge, will gain, even in the narrow economic area, the benefits of their investment. And these benefits in their entirety, contrary to budget deficits or surpluses, can not possibly be lost, neither by natural nor by anthropogenic causes.

Conveying the salutation of the Rector of the University of Cyprus and the entire University community, which along with all Greeks is anxious for the future and offers moral support, let me publicly express my personal emotion: the emotion of a now emigrant Thessalonian graduate of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, who sees his *alma mater* adding to the galaxy of its longtime and diverse offering to knowledge and science, yet another bright star.

I thank you