



Sail with your heart... win with your mind

Press Release
Chios Island, 26th September 2012

For publication consideration

GREEK CHALLENGE – UNIVERSITY of the AEGEAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The University of the Aegean and GREEK CHALLENGE announced today their partnership that marks a new approach for the establishment of sailing in Greece.

The scope of this partnership is the involvement of the youth and University students to customized sailing programs to be taught by prominent international and domestic sailing legends.

Furthermore, U o A will support GC in its bid to host America's Cup World Series Events in Greece and its sailing team

GC and U o A are committed to creating sailing courses as part of the University's Summer school curriculum and developing courses that will prepare future professional sailors to enter the competitive world of the America's Cup, Volvo Ocean Race, etc.

Rector Paris Tsartas stated:

"The Senate of the University of the Aegean, following its session, no. 16/05-07-2012 has decided that the University will collaborate with GREEK CHALLENGE to host and organize America's Cup and other international sailing regattas in the Aegean Sea, the cradle of Western Civilization.

Due to its strategic location and academic and scientific stature the University of the Aegean is the most suitable institution to engage in such an undertaking.

It is our hope and wish that the bidding process will conclude positively and will benefit the islands of the Aegean region as well the Hellenic culture and tourist influx to Greece."

Sotiris Bouzeas, CEO of GREEK CHALLENGE stated:

"The Academic staff and PhD candidates of the University of the Aegean have been working and supporting our cause to bid for and host international sailing regattas in the Aegean over the past year.

Their knowledge in marine tourism issues has helped GC to identify the locations for hosting such regattas in an environmental and sustainable manner; as well studied the benefits of such events would bring to Greece on a cultural, economic, infrastructure and social level.

GC has been creating a consortium of institutions that share the vision for the future development of the sport of sailing in Greece, through technology driven international sailing regattas such as the America's Cup. We are roaming the seas for 5000 years and it all started in the Aegean Sea, it is time that the pinnacle of sailing comes to Poseidon's backyard.

We believe that the new generation of sailors that will participate in the Summer School sailing courses will enhance our capacity to be more competitive in our future sailing competitions.”

About the University of the Aegean

The University of the Aegean is an international research oriented university. It is an inspiring, innovative, socially committed institution situated in the Aegean Archipelago, the ancient cradle of knowledge.

The U o A embodies the concept of a 'university- network'- a network of schools and departments, dispersed over six Aegean islands: Lemnos, Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Rhodes and Syros. The challenge of academic and administrative decentralization has resulted in imaginative new approaches in academic practice and has enhanced the sense of unity within the academic community of each campus. It is the network structure that fostered the early and full incorporation of Information and Communication Technologies in every day practice.

The U o A invests in innovative educational programs and multidisciplinary fields of research that correspond to the needs of the modern world. It has led the way in the introduction of new undergraduate and postgraduate disciplines such as environmental studies, shipping, trade and transport, tourism, ICT's, multimedia and design, humanities, Mediterranean studies, making the U o A a pioneering and competitive institution at a Greek and European level. It boasts an experienced and well-qualified academic staff with great research expertise, fully equipped laboratories, extensive international links in both research and exchange programs and a vibrant student community. The beautiful Aegean islands provide a unique, natural, cultural and human environment in which high quality research and education environment can thrive.

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Rector Paris Tsartas and GC CEO Sotiris Bouzeas seal their partnership with handshake
Athens, September 11 2012

