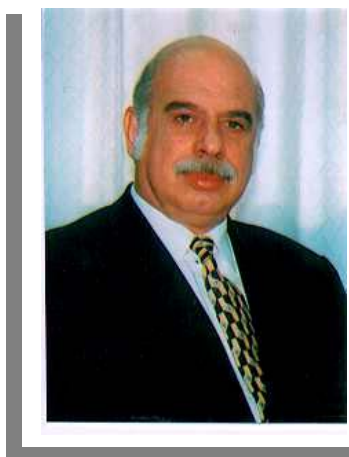


## Ouranios Ioannides

### Minister of Education and Culture



*Born in 1944, Mr. Ioannides holds a Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences from the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Greece, a Master's degree in Education from the University of Wales, and a Ph.D. in Education from La Salle University. He attended also postgraduate Studies in Educational Management, Educational Psychology, Educational Technology and Research Skills at the University College, Cardiff. Mr. Ioannides has a long record of educational involvement. He served as Schoolmaster, as Lecturer in Biological Sciences and Science, as Assistant Headmaster of Secondary Schools, and as Senior Education Officer. He was Member of the Parliament. He was appointed as Minister of Education..*

### **Information and Communication Technologies in the Cyprus Educational System**

“The introduction of ICT in the Cyprus Educational System has been viewed as a matter of utmost priority in the effort both to respond to the needs of the economy and to the perspectives of the new technologies for the educational process but as well as in closing the social gap between the poor and the rich in the Cyprus society. It is seen as a catalyst in the process to acquire social cohesion since it is expected to provide to the future citizens of the country the means for social mobility.

Computers were introduced in upper secondary schools as from 1984. For the first two years, 1984 and 1985, on an experimental basis, in a number of schools and since 1986 in all public upper secondary schools. The majority of the private secondary schools adopted a similar process. At this level of education I.T. is part of the curriculum, in the form of subjects aiming at computer literacy and developing skills in the area and as a tool used for supporting other subjects or as a teaching aid.

**Simultaneously there is a systematic effort for promoting the new technologies in all the levels of education as tools or means in the teaching process. In this context there is already a basic infrastructure, that it is now in the process of full expansion, and in conjunction with the training of the teaching personnel, the education system is steadily making use of the possibilities of the modern tools.**

Regarding the INTERNET the decision of the government for the connection of every school to the net is already a fact, at least as far as connection is concerned. It is already in full use in upper secondary schools and it is partly in use in all the other lower levels of education. *Ω*