

CyBC 'Symviosi kai Polipolitismikotita' radio interview with P Caterina Kalavas 20/11/10 or 1 st programme 10.15-11.00	14 000	This was a very long interview on the occasion of the Dyslexia booklet, however, P Caterina's messages of Rotary principles and Rotary
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QUESTION:

What was the initial purpose of the collaboration between the two Rotary Clubs and how DYSLEXIA became part of the collaboration?

ANSWER:

C Kalavas The collaboration of our Club with the DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION started many years ago. After discussing the problem with the members of the board and the president of the Association we established the need of informing parents about DYSLEXIA and we decided to prepare and publish a booklet for this purpose.

The Association approached the psychologist Dr. Stefanos Demetriou to write the booklet and ASPELIA Rotary Club undertook to print it.

However, recognizing that dyslexia is a problem of the entire population of Cyprus, we contacted the NICOSIA SARAYONU ROTARY CLUB in order to investigate the possibility of a joint project which would include translation of the booklet in Turkish, printing and distributing it.

The SARAYONU ROTARY CLUB embraced the idea immediately, and at the same time the PANCYPRIAN DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION contacted the Turkish Cypriot Dyslexia Association.

The first problem that we had to overcome was the translation of the booklet into Turkish. In this endeavor we were lucky to find a Greek lady interpreter from Turkey who undertook the translation free of charge and we are very grateful to her for the excellent work she has done.

Next we sent the translated booklet to the Turkish Cypriot Dyslexia Association to make the necessary changes in order to adapt it so as to fit their conditions, because in the occupied area there are no regulations with regard to this issue like we have here where we have comprehensive legislation, based on E.U. Practice.

So we managed to translate it and SARAYONU Rotary Club undertook the distribution of the booklet.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Kalavas, the booklet is in circulation for one and a half months now. Do you have any feedback on the initial reaction, how did you see this project materialize producing results? The mission has been accomplished and the booklet is being distributed to the people who need it who primarily are the parents of children with dyslexia problems.

ANSWER:

C Kalavas On 4th October 2010 we had a press release at Chateau Status in order to present the booklet in both languages, Greek and Turkish.

It was a joint event of both the Dyslexia Associations and the Rotary Clubs. All the media were invited and there was a very good response, especially from the Turkish Cypriot Press and TV Channels.

The press release was published in the main four Turkish Cypriot news papers and at the same time it appeared on TV.

I believe that we have concluded successfully the first phase of the project. The booklet has been distributed to parents in both communities. Of course this is just the beginning. The next phase is the arrangement of seminars for the parents aiming to train them on how to use the booklet.

QUESTION:

Mr. Christofi, I understand that the booklet has already been distributed. How did you publicized its existence?

ANSWER:

C Christofi This booklet is distributed by our Association to everybody visiting our premises.

The response is very good as the booklet is very concise and comprehensive, written in simple language.

The parent training seminars have already started. We had our first meeting last Tuesday. Two more meetings will follow on the following consecutive Tuesdays.

On the 4th Tuesday there will be a final meeting jointly with the Turkish Cypriot parents where the results will be evaluated.

The response at the first meeting was satisfactory with about 20 parents attending and we believe that the attendance in the meetings to follow will be even better.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Kalavas, what cooperation in general is there between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Rotary Clubs?

You have already mentioned that all Rotary Clubs in Cyprus are under the umbrella of the Republic of Cyprus.

How many Rotary Clubs exist in Cyprus today?

ANSWER:

C Kalavas There are nineteen Rotary Clubs in Cyprus, sixteen Greek Cypriot and three Turkish Cypriot, all under the same umbrella.

At this point I must mention that Cyprus is under a district comprising 10 countries.

The last country that joint the district was Palestine.

The cooperation with the Turkish Cypriot Rotary Clubs is excellent.

We also have Rotaractor Clubs for young people of ages between 18 and 30, in both the occupied and free Cyprus, all under the same umbrella and the cooperation between Rotaractor Clubs is even better, through joint projects and other activities.

QUESTION:

What are the activities of R.Cs in the Turkish community in general with special emphasis on R.C. Sarayonu?

ANSWER:

Dervis Baha We are concentrating on the environment to start with, we are strengthening projects related to cleanliness of the environment, also treatment of the teeth of children in primary schools and we are also interested in strengthening the relationships between our clubs and the clubs in other of the Island. We are also trying to identify hard working and successful students and if they are in need of any kind of assistance we are prepared to help them. I myself am responsible for rotaractors and we are trying to strengthen them by motivating and encourage them, delivering motivating speeches etc etc. Besides of all these we are very much willing to promote cooperation between our clubs and with the clubs all over the Island through this mega project about eating disorders.

QUESTION:

What is the interest about Rotary in general amongst the Turkish Community because as we mentioned there are only three clubs as compared to the sixteen Greek Cypriot clubs where we know for a fact what the community response is to rotary activities within this community. Is as enthusiastic the response you get form the Turkish Cypriot community?

ANSWER:

D Baha Yes it is!

QUESTION:

Can you give an example of where you have seen extra enthusiasm?

ANSWER:

D Baha Well, when invite speakers to our meetings we hold their pulse, pulse of the community, pulse of the people who these speakers represent and from there we know how enthusiastic the community is in understanding our activities and supporting us.

QUESTION:

Unfortunately time is running out and I would like to end this beautiful meeting each one of you giving us a closing message regarding your future objectives.

Mrs. Kalavas, in relation to the cooperation of both communities in this particular programme but also generally in relation to the cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities?

ANSWER:

C Kalavas The dyslexia project will continue, the presentation for informing the parents shall take place and after its completion a joint meeting is scheduled to take place on noon December 4th, at the Ledra Palace Hotel where all the parents from both communities who participated in the seminars will be present.

This programme will continue in the new year and our objective is to continue with the training of the teachers.

Of course we shall continue our efforts and we shall try to respond to the needs of both Dyslexia Associations.

Our cooperation with the Turkish Cypriot R.Cs is continuous. We work for the same cause, serving and improving society. The objectives are the same. We have common programmes on a continuous basis and we have very good cooperation.

Presenter Thank you very much, Mr. Christofi, what is your closing message?

Christofi: The mission of the Pancyprian Dyslexia Association is the creation of an environment where children shall have the opportunity to develop their potential and to have a promising future. Our mission is to work on informing the parents and all others involved with dyslexia, cooperation with all bodies where decisions are made, protection of children's human rights and of course cooperation with anybody else in need of our or their help.

Our cooperation with the Turkish Cypriot Dyslexia Association is excellent and we want to keep it up because it is essential and for the benefit of both communities and we remain at their disposal for anything that they may need.

Many thanks to President Mrs. **Caterina Kalavas and to the members of Nicosia Aspelia Rotary Club**, who coordinated and made possible the printing of the booklet as well as its publication in Turkish.

Presenter:

We would like to Mr. Baha's closing message.

Dervish Baha:

First of all I would like to thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to share our ideas.

I would also like to thank Caterina very much for encouraging us to cooperate and produce fantastic results.

Mr. Der Parthogh:

I wish to say that R.Cs usually undertake a project every rotary year known as the "Ongoing Project". This is a project that will continue in the years to come.

Our Ongoing Project has been introduced by our president Caterina Kalavas and will be continued in cooperation the Turkish Cypriot Clubs and the Dyslexia Associations.

Mr. Christofi:

I wish to thank the rotarians for all their assistance to us. We had done the work but if it was not for them it would have not reach the public and we thank them very much for all their help. I would also like to thank the Turkish Cypriot Dyslexia Association for the cooperation that we had.

I would also like to thank CyBC for this opportunity.

Presenter:

I would like to thank all four of you as well as Mrs. Iker Tunar , the Vice president of the Turkish Cypriot Dyslexia Association with whom we spoke over the phone at the beginning of this programme.

I am sure that our audience today realised that the cooperation between the two

communities can materialise in many different ways and the cooperation between the R.Cs and the Dyslexia Associations is an example of that.