

Higher education growth is a government priority



While marking the fifth anniversary of the University of Cyprus' Kios Research Centre for Intelligent Systems and Networks, President Anastasiades yesterday said the expansion of higher education was among his government's highest priorities.

Speaking at a scientific workshop organised as part of the anniversary celebrations, Anastasiades said of particular interest were the fields of modern technology, medicine and energy to create qualified manpower for businesses while also preventing highly qualified Cypriots from choosing to move abroad.

"The academic devel-

opment of Cyprus and at the same time developing research and innovation is for the government an integral part of the economic, social and cultural development of our country."

Anastasiades said: "The expansion of higher education, particularly in the fields of modern technology, medicine, energy, specialised topics and the contemporary needs of the country, which would create qualified manpower for the productive businesses and organisations and reduce the number of Cypriot scientists moving abroad, is our highest priority.

He said the economic

crisis has not impeded the creativity of Cypriot scientists, who continue to work to achieve excellence. "We feel proud because although small in size, we excel at European and international level."

Anastasiades also thanked the University of Cyprus "for its substantial contribution" to Cypriot society.

On the Kios centre in particular, Anastasiades said it had over the past five years developed into an international centre of excellence, attracting 50 research programmes and over €10 million in EU funding.

Also during yester-

day's celebrations, UCY Rector Constantinos Christofides announced the European Investment Bank has agreed to grant a loan of €140m to the University of Cyprus, with favourable repayment terms, for the completion of its new campus. Christofides said that he received a letter from EIB President informing him that the final negotiations can be conducted at the beginning of July. Asking for the President's support, the Rector said that "the EIB loan, along with donations and resources from the structural funds, pave the way for the completion of the campus, in times of crisis".