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Rector urges state to support library project

By Poly Pantelides

CONSTRUCTION work is in full swing for the new state-of-the-art University of Cyprus (UCY) library, although the University of Cyprus' rector has warned the government that failing to support the project could entail a waste of the millions already invested.

The Stelios Ioannou Information Centre-Library will house a collection of one million books, 30,000 e-magazines, and 150 databases, in an imposing dome-shaped building. Its contents will be accessible to all Cypriots, and is designed to serve a student population of 10,000.

The project which includes an information centre, tech-

nical support for teaching and a language centre, was designed by the internationally acclaimed French architect Jean Nouvel.

It is being constructed north east of the Aglandjia campus and will cover over 15,000 square metres of land. The project was undertaken by construction company J&P and J&P Avax Joint Ventures at a cost of €27.7 million.

Stelios Ioannou's widow, Elli, has donated a significant €8.0 million to the project in memory of her husband.

The University's rector Constantinos Christofides

urged the state to include the project in its 2014 budget to ensure the work was completed. Over €8 million has already been spent towards the project. "I hope the state will take action so that the library is included in the 2014 budget so that [construction] carries on," Christofides said. Failing to complete the project, would be wasting the money already spent, while housing resources under one roof

would help to save expenses from renting out other buildings, Christofides said.

The foundations are now in place, and a team of 70 people are working to install necessary infrastructure and to cast the floor slab for the

third floor, a UCY progress report said. As works progress, employment of additional specialised staff "should increase significantly," the report said.

So far, the contractor has been paid €8,279,000 plus VAT, with about €6.6 million already gone towards construction. As of August this year, the project was 22 per cent complete.

Former president Demetris Christofias laid the foundation stone for the library in February. Money permitting, the library is set to open its doors in September 2014 and will be the island's first library to be built on such a scale.



Work is in full swing for the new state-of-the-art University of Cyprus library as this handout photo shows