

Distinction for Greek prof.

London --

Greek professor Costas Grammenos, pro-vice chancellor of City School of London and chairman of the steering committee of the International University of Thessaloniki, is included in the roster of personalities to whom Queen Elizabeth of England conferred titles and honorable distinctions in the new year.

Grammenos was awarded the title of "Commander" of the British Empire for "his services in teaching and research", according to an announcement by the British Foreign Office.

In 1994, Queen Elizabeth conferred the title of "Officer" of the British Empire to Grammenos "for

his contribution to teaching and the promotion of Greek-British relations" and, in 1999, she had conferred on him the highest academic title in Britain, that of "Doctor of Sciences".

Professor Costas Grammenos, a Professor of Shipping, Trade and Finance, is Pro-Vice Chancellor of City University, London; and Deputy Dean (Head of Undergraduate School) of its Cass Business School.

He founded the International Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance in 1983 (renamed the Costas Grammenos International Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance in April 2007). He has been head of the Centre since its inception and

responsible for its design; and, until 1997, was Director of the world class M.Sc. in Shipping, Trade and Finance, introduced in 1984; and the M.Sc. in Logistics, Trade and Finance, introduced in September 1997 and M.Sc. in Energy, Trade and Finance, introduced in 2003. Approximately 2000 students, from 90 countries have graduated over this period, and many of them are holding leading positions in international banking, shipping and trading, and manufacturing sectors.

He was born in Athens in 1944, and has a BA in Economics (Pantion University, Athens), an MSc. in Financial Economics (Bangor, Wales), and a DSc. in Shipping Finance (City, London).

New hospital for Santorini

Santorini is expected to have a new general hospital in 20 months' time after Health Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos laid the foundation stone yesterday for the new building, which will house five specialist clinics and 42 beds. Islanders have been demanding a new hospital on Santorini for several years so that it can keep up with the increased medical demands in the summer, when thousands of tourists flock to the Cycladic island. The hospital will cover 4,600 square meters and will "match up to the quality and size of tourism on the island," said Avramopoulos. The construction of the new hospital will cost 14 million euros. The land on which the hospital is being built has been donated by the local Aghios Nikolaos Church. Avramopoulos thanked several people, including Aristides Alafouzos, the president of Kathimerini's board of directors, for playing a leading role in getting the project off the ground.



Vassilis Xiros, left, the Greek Embassy's deputy head of mission, Sophia Panayiotaki, centre, director of the Greek National Tourism Organization, Japan and South Korea bureau, and Nancy Choi, president of CJ's World, cut ribbons to open the Greek photo exhibition at the Lotte Department Store in Seoul, Friday. / Korea Times Photos by Kim Se-jeong

Greek Colors Illuminate Seoul

It was just 10 photos, but they were eye-catching enough to stop a passers-

by in front of the Lotte Department Store. Frames are so gigantic

and the colors bright that nobody can possibly miss them, even from a distance. As part of a tourism promotion effort, the Greek National Tourism Organization, Japan and South Korea Bureau, came up with a idea of photo exhibition in cooperation with Korean agency CJ's World. Nancy Choi, president of

CJ's World, told The Korea Times that the exhibition was in line with Koreans' curiosity of Greece, which is known for its ancient structures. An average of 70,000 Koreans travel to Greece per year, she said, and the number is expected to grow this year. The exhibition will run until Jan. 14.

Ancient Greeks' homes may have doubled as bars and brothels

The Ancient Greeks may have made cash on the side by turning parts of their homes into bars and brothels, researchers have found. Excavations at sites across the Greek mainland have uncovered hundreds of drinking cups and erotic objects in homes dating back to the 5th and 4th centuries BC, suggesting rooms and courtyards were used for dubious commercial practices. The discovery may solve the longstanding mystery of why archaeologists have found so little evidence of bawdy Greek tavernas, despite featuring so prominently in classical literature. "This has a real impact on how we view the economy in classical Greece," Clare Kelly Blazeby at Leeds University told *New Scientist* magazine. "A lot of trade and industry was based within the home." She reviewed archaeological remains unearthed at several prominent sites dating from 475 to 323 BC, including the Villa of Good Fortune in Olynthus, and a residence known as building Z in Athens. To many archaeologists, the vast numbers of mugs, erotic graffiti and objects found at the sites indicate no more than well-off families that threw lavish parties. But Kelly Blazeby will tell the Archaeological Institute of America meeting in Philadelphia this week that a more plausible explanation is that residents turned over rooms in their houses to selling wine, gambling and even prostitution. "If you look at the remains coming from ancient Greek homes, it seems very clear to me that these buildings had another function, that some areas were used for commercial purposes," she said. "It's amazing how entrenched people in the field are. We are trying to change archaeologists' minds by pointing out that houses could be used economically as well being residences." Building Z was discovered in an area of Athens that at the time was popular with prostitutes. Archaeologists working at the site found large numbers of ancient cups, but also noticed that the room had unusual cubicles around the edge. "It may have been a place where men went to drink and where they could choose a prostitute," said Kelly Blazeby. The Villa of Good Fortune is unusual in having two "androns", or men's rooms, with floors patterned with mosaics relating to good luck and drinking, prompting some researchers to speculate it was an ancient casino.

Article from the Guardian



The landscape of residential district of the Santorini Island emits exoticness. / Korea Times Photos by Kim Se-jeong