

Greek road show to Australia to attract investment

The Invest in Greece Agency, in collaboration with the Greek Embassy in Australia, is organizing Investment Forums in Australia from December 3rd till December 9th, to present investment opportunities in Greece in the sectors of Financial Services, Tourism, Renewable Energy and Information Technology.

The first investment forum will take place at Perth on December 3rd (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, 180 Hay Street, East Perth), the second one will be held on December 7th in Sydney (Industry & Investment NSW, The Hamilton Room, NSW Trade and Investment Centre,

Level 47 MLC Centre, Cnr King and Castlereagh streets), while the last one is scheduled on December 9th in Melbourne (Melbourne Observation Deck Rialto, Theatre - ground floor).

Australia was selected as the destination for this road show mainly because of its significant FDI outflows and the investment sectors that has in common with Greece. Also, given the extensive and very active Greek community in Australia, the potential to strengthen the economic and business ties between the two countries is substantial.

By investing in Greece, investors will:

- Follow the footsteps of numerous in-

ternational companies,

- Maximize their chances of success by investing in the dynamic sectors of energy and tourism,

- Benefit from governmental financial support, reaching 60% of the investment value,

- Take advantage of a well-trained, creative and flexible labor force with the highest productivity in the region,

- Gain profit of the emerging investment opportunities in highly promising tourism sub-sectors,

- Be part of the country's strategic target for Renewable Energy Source,

- Take profit by the 20 year Feed In

Tariffs Agreement,

- Locate landscapes of unique beauty and discover what quality of life means,
- Make the most of the ideal weather conditions

Invest in Greece Agency

Invest in Greece is the official Investment Promotion Agency of Greece that promotes and facilitates private investment. Invest in Greece provides investors with assistance, analysis, advice, and aftercare support. Invest in Greece is committed to helping businesspeople discover the many opportunities in Greece, the gateway to Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

All for the king's rain

Rapturous applause and teary eyes greeted the unveiling of the bust of the ancient Spartan King, Leonidas in Sparta Place, Brunswick, on Tuesday afternoon.

The rain did not stop the sizable crowd from turning up for the event.

Along with members of Pallaonian Brotherhood of Victoria, was City of Moreland Mayor, Lambros Tapinos, MPs Jenny Mikakos and Kelvin Thompson as well as community leaders. The statue of

King Leonidas was commissioned by the City of Brunswick to celebrate the Memorandum of Understanding between Sparta and Brunswick. Prior to the unveiling, the statue was contested by some local traders who accused the City of Moreland of a lack of consultation.



It did not rain on their parade. A large crowd showed up for the unveiling of King Leonidas' statue at Sparta Place, Brunswick. Photo: K. Deves

English Department Offers Modern Greek Class

For many students and community members the Greek language seems difficult and out of reach, reflecting the cliché "It's Greek to me." However, learning the language is no longer a dream but an obtainable goal.

For those interested in learning to read, write and speak the Greek language, the English department at Shawnee State University will offer a Modern Greek class for the spring semester 2010. "Many students want to

take the class to learn how to read the Bible in its original language, Greek, while others are interested in learning the language to gain a competitive edge in their careers," said Dr. Stylianos Hadjiyannis, the professor who will be teaching the course. According to Hadjiyannis, a native of Greece, thousands of words in the English language have been borrowed from Greek. The language is based on phonetics and the English alphabet, making it easier to learn.

"I taught the Greek class in the fall semester of 2008 and was amazed at the response of students who enrolled; the class was full in a week," Hadjiyannis said. "I'm teaching it again because some students enjoyed it so much, they want to retake the class."

Hadjiyannis also said that once a student memorizes the 24 Greek letters, they will be able to read and pronounce every single word in the Greek language. However, the words may not make sense until a dictionary is used to translate the words into sentences.

He hopes to eventually combine the course with a short trip to Greece so students can practice their Greek while being immersed in the culture. Hadjiyannis encourages students and community members who are interested to enroll in the course next semester.

Greek hostage drama over after man in school surrenders

Athens - A Greek man who threatened to blow up the German school in the northern port city of Thessaloniki after taking the principal hostage surrendered to police Wednesday.

The man, 55-year-old Costas Arabatzis, finally turned himself in after threatening to kill himself and blow up the school hours after he first took the principal and another school employee hostage, the German Foreign Ministry said.

The two men were released unharmed an hour into the hostage drama.

Reports said the man, who suffers from psychological problems, had entered the school just before noon with two suitcases, saying they contained explosives.

Arabatzis hid in one of the classrooms of the school saying he would blow the building up unless a 10 million euro (15 million dollars) ransom was paid.

In a twist, it emerged that Arabatzis carried out the same hostage-taking against the principal and another man at the German school in May 2006.

On that occasion he demanded a 5 million euro ransom from the German consulate in Thessaloniki but then released the pair unharmed and was charged by a Greek court with abduction, possession of explosives and extortion.

He was sentenced to 11 years in prison but was released after three years for good behaviour.

At the time of the 2006 hostage taking Arabatzis was on a 10-day leave from prison where he was serving a 19 year sentence for robbery.

Consumers advised to use mouthwashes with care

Most people don't give a lot of thought to the type of mouthwash they use, but different mouthwashes have different purposes and some can have serious side effects, especially when not used properly.

Writing in the latest edition of Australian Prescriber, dental researchers Camile Farah, Lidija McIntosh and Michael McCullough warn of the potential side effects and recommend that people choose a mouthwash based on their personal oral health, considering the benefits and risks of each product.

"A mouthwash may be recommended to treat infection, reduce inflamed gums, relieve pain, reduce bad breath or to deliver fluoride," the authors write.

"However mouthwashes should only be used for short periods of time and only in addition to brushing and flossing."

The authors report there is increasing evidence of a direct relationship between the alcohol content of mouthwashes and oral cancer and do not recommend long-term use of mouthwashes containing alcohol.

"In people using these mouthwashes, the risk of getting cancer in the mouth or throat is increased by over nine times in smokers, over five times in those who also drink alcohol, and by almost five times in those who neither smoke nor drink alcohol," they write.

The high concentrations of alcohol in these mouthwashes can also increase the risk of gingivitis, keratosis and mouth pain.

"Although many popular mouthwashes may help to control dental plaque and gingivitis, they should only be used for a short time."

"Long-term use of alcohol-containing mouthwashes should be discouraged given recent evidence of a possible link with oral cancer, but fluoride mouthwashes should be encouraged in people with a high risk of tooth decay," the authors conclude.