

encounter frequent drought conditions. In addition, our conventional water resources are seriously depleted as their demand for urban, tourist and industrial uses increases from year to year due to population growth, industrial intensification and an impressive expansion in tourism.

The 10th World Fertilizer Congress presents a unique international forum for the dissemination of information, the exchange of ideas and experiences, the assessment of practices and the discussion of recent breakthroughs related to fertilizers, their use and their impacts. The findings and conclusions from such an important meeting will unquestionably contribute to and play a determining role towards the efforts to improve fertilizer and water management and conserve our environment.

I am confident that the Congress, which deserves our wholehearted and active support, will wholly achieve its objectives by your active contribution and participation.

With these thoughts, I conclude my address by wishing you every success in your deliberations, and to each and everyone of you a happy and pleasant stay in Cyprus and a safe return to your countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.