Harvard Club of Cyprus – Background & Notable Successes

Background:
- The Harvard Club of Cyprus was established in 2010
- The Club has been quite active and established a reputation for hosting interesting events and informative events
- However the pool of alumni in Cyprus decreased significantly during the financial crisis, and is now increasing

Club Mission:
- ✓ To bring together members of the local Harvard family
- ✓ To provide a forum for exceptional thinkers to share their knowledge and experience with Harvard alumni and the wider professional community in Cyprus

Notable Successes:
The club has organized regular events and hosted high profile speakers e.g.

Public Events:
- ✓ Dr. Bernard Kouchner (former French Foreign Minister)
- ✓ Wilbur Ross (current US Commerce Secretary)
- ✓ His Highness Sheikh Muhammad of Kuwait
- ✓ Vuk Jeremic (former President of the UN General Assembly)
- ✓ Charis Christofides (Senior IMF Economist)

Gala Dinners:
- ✓ Stelios Hadji-Ioannou (Easyjet Founder)
- ✓ Professor Richard N. Cooper (Harvard Professor of Economics)

Lunch Events:
- ✓ US Ambassadors, successful entrepreneurs, CEO's of major local companies, academics

- Over the last 3 years the club has recruited around 15 new members
- Launched and retained the Harvard Book Prize at 3 of the top high schools in Cyprus with great success
- Maintained an active core membership base (although relatively small)
- Overall the club has been effective in promoting the Harvard brand

Harvard Club of Cyprus – Key Challenges

Key Challenges:

- Maintaining an active membership base through engaging and stimulating events

- Expanding our membership base further, given the relatively small size of the country and hence limited pool of graduates

- Attracting world class speakers to Cyprus, given that it is not a major international hub

- Finding time to organize events and associated logistics on a volunteer basis (insufficient scale to employ an administrator)