

## **World Wetlands Day 2013 celebrations at Akrotiri Peninsula**

The Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre (AEEIC), in close cooperation with Akrotiri Community Council, Akrotiri Primary School and Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, and support from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, organised a series of events to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2013.

A wide range of events of educational, social, cultural and entertainment character, have been organized, including special educational programmes for school groups, presentations, bird-watching, photography exhibition, basket making workshop and an artistic/cultural event.

The first event was organised at AEEIC on the world wetlands day on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. The program included a presentation about the importance of the local wetlands, bird-watching from the observation kiosk of the Centre and use of interactive exhibits at the Centre. About 40 persons, mainly local residents, participated.



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, a basketry workshop took place at Akrotiri Primary School. Local basket-makers, together with AEEIC personnel, guided the children to create their own traditional handcraft basketry items, after a short introduction on the main techniques that are traditionally used at Akrotiri.



On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, Akrotiri Primary School students presented a cultural/artistic event concerning the local wetlands, which included songs, poems and a theatre play. Afterwards, an exhibition of photographs that the children took from the local wetlands followed. At the event, the basket creations of the children were also exhibited. All school children participated as well as parents.