Welcome to Aghios Nikolaos, to the origin of tourism in Crete.

In 1962, the very first  VIP hotel ever built in Crete - Minos Beach Hotel - was built at the edge of the town, with co-owner the Municipality itself, having ceded the land in Ammoudi beach. This act / set foot ever since / for the institution of successful collaboration between public and private sector.

During the ‘70, the region of Elounda started to bloom / and soon enough / came to hold the very first position as a VIP destination for the area and even for a wider range around it. In the years following, the tourism was also spread around us / to the hole island / in Malia, Hersonisos, Rethymno, Chania, creating Crete of today / an ambassador for Greek Tourism.

The Municipality of Aghios Nikolaos today isn't just about its coastline- but its inland as well, up to the mountain of Zeus, Dikti, in Lasithi Plateau.

Stunning and unexplored little spots of natural beauty, religion and old civilizations offer the visitors the privilege to discover the soul of Crete, not just its' facade.

The unique stony landscape of Upper Merambelo, also known as the "Holly Mount of Crete" due to its plethora of monasteries and churches - the historical village of Kritsa with ancient Lato, place of birth for Nearchos, the admiral of Alexander the Great  and  unbowed Kroustas with its real cretan gastronomy, the historical capital of municipality, Neapolis , with its buildings of modern classicism and headquarters for the Holly Metropolitan Church of Petra and Hersonissos ,- the village of Vrachasi with its great history, the torturous village of Milatos and so many other places to be discovered, since beside its urban center, the Municipality includes twenty three (23) more villages.

Most well known monument in our area is our Spinalonga island, a venetian fortress built upon previous cretan antiquities, used in the begining of twentieth century and for fifty seven years as a place of isolation for lepers and having today more than 450 thousand visitors annualy being – after Knossos – the second open monument in Crete due to the number of visitors.

An effort is taking place for Spinalonga's /entry within the list for protected monuments of UNESCO, as a monument of human pain and exclusion.

Sea has always been a source of life for us, even long before tourism occurred and arised. Therefore, blue economy is something concerning us deeply, so when the Prefecture of Crete and Vice Regional Governor George Alexakis decided to organaze  the 50eth Convention of Coastal and Remote Regions to Aghios Nikolaos , we claimed present and active for its' successful outcome and I  do thank them from my heart.

I sincerely hope you enjoyed your stay in Agios Nikolaos and that the meetings have been resourceful and fruitful.