

MASHAV HIGHLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT ON 2008

In 2008, MASHAV marked its 50th anniversary. Over 250,000 professionals from all over the world have taken part in MASHAV's programs in Israel and abroad over the past 50 years. A wide spectrum of short- and long-term consultancies, combined with on-site demonstration activities geared to the transfer of know-how and appropriate technologies, have become MASHAV's trademark.

In 2008, some 2,762 professionals from 110 countries participated in 142 courses offered in Israel, while 5,594 took part in 84 on-the-spot courses (in host countries) offered in a total of 33 countries. MASHAV experts were dispatched throughout the world on 83 short-term consultancies and humanitarian medical missions to 34 countries and 9 long-term experts were serving on MASHAV demonstration projects around the world, in a total of 6 countries. The following are some highlights of MASHAV's activities in the year 2008.

MASHAV Hosts International Conference on "Israel and the African Green Revolution"

Experts from Israel and from the international community gathered in June 2008 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem to present various approaches to agricultural development on the African continent and to discuss how to effectively implement them in order to alleviate the present food and water crisis. The *Conference on Israel and the African Green Revolution* was organized by MASHAV and was attended by hundreds of delegates representing African states, international aid organizations, members of the academic establishment, and participants in two of MASHAV's professional training courses in Israel.

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, New York, and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, was the keynote speaker at the International Conference.

Distinguished speakers at the conference also included: Dr. William D. Dar, Director General of ICRISAT (the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics); Mr. Gilbert Houngebo, Director Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP, New York; and Ms. Federica Marzo, from the OECD Center, Paris.

In his address, Prof. Sachs mentioned that hundreds of millions of people around the world suffer from hunger, lack of water, disease, and unemployment -



Participants at the Conference on "Israel and the African Green Revolution"

despite the wealth, advanced technology, and know-how that exist in today's world. Prof. Sachs stated that Africa would like to have Israel as a partner in the continent's green revolution, and that Israel has the technological expertise that Africa needs in three main fields: agriculture, public health and medicine, and solar energy.

The conference explored Israel's contribution to this global challenge, and reflected Israel's continued commitment to alleviating extreme poverty in Africa, as well as Israel's adherence to the Millennium Development Goals. Since its establishment 50 years ago, MASHAV has remained steadfast in the belief that in order to overcome poverty, emphasis must be placed on achieving and enhancing food security. Agricultural cooperation in Africa has always been a main focus.

Israel Joins the OECD Development Center

The Council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) approved Israel's membership in the Development Center, an arm of the OECD. The Development Center, which was set up in 1962 as a semi-independent body, comprises OECD member states as well as non-member states. Israel will be represented in the Center by delegates from the Foreign Affairs and Finance Ministries. Ambassador Haim Divon, Head of MASHAV, attended his first Governing Board meeting in Paris on March, 2008.

Address at UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Development

Head of MASHAV, Ambassador Haim Divon, addressed a high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which took place at the UN on September 2008, within the framework of the UN General Assembly Meeting on Development. The issue at hand was "Africa's development needs: State of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward." Ambassador Divon touched upon some of the successes of the MDGs, as well as challenges that lie ahead, highlighting that Israeli contribution to the MDG program is making a difference in the lives of people across the globe.

Water Experts from Jordan

A delegation of high level water experts from Jordan visited Israel in the beginning of November 2008 to learn about Israeli technology and techniques. The



Jordanian experts, six men and four women, came as part of a program organized by MASHAV and CINADCO - The Center for International Agricultural Development Cooperation, covering, among others, subject such as: Fertilization and pressurized irrigation, Administration of urban water, Treatment of recycled water for irrigation, and more. Under the program, Israeli and Jordanian water experts are to share their expertise in four week-long workshops-two in Israel, two in Jordan - over the course of the year

First MASHAV -WHO Europe Regional Course on Public Health and Emergency Management

The "Public Health and Emergency Management" training program took place in Israel in June 2008, and focused on the management of critical public health issues in disasters and emergencies. The objective of the course was to foster health and security in the region by enhancing health systems capacities to prepare for and respond to a crisis - a focus that has been given increasing priority by the World Health Organization Regional Committee for Europe in recent years. This first-of-its-kind regional course was hosted and supported by MASHAV; the Israeli Ministry of Health; and the Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University; and included the participation of 22 delegates from 13 countries.

First Israel-Vietnam Video Conference on "Wastewater Treatment Technologies"

As a part of the efforts to promote the global campaign on "Green Technologies," the Embassy of Israel in Hanoi, together with MASHAV and the Economic Division of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, cooperated with the Consultant and Inspection Joint Stock Company of Construction Technology and Equipment of Vietnam (CONINCO) to organize the first video conference on "Waste-Water Treatment Technologies". The event took place at the Vietnam Development Information Center (VDIC) in January 2008, and was linked from MASHAV and the Israeli Export Institute to the VDIC



“Wastewater Treatment Technologies” video conference

through the World Bank in Washington. Over 70 people from relevant ministries, authorities, and companies attended the Video Conference, allowing professionals from both countries to exchange ideas regarding future cooperation opportunities.

Special Study Tour for First Nations Women

In January, 2008 a group of 16 First Nations Women from Canada took part in a Special Study Tour at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) in Haifa, organized in cooperation with the Assembly of First Nations, the Canadian Jewish Congress, and sponsored by the Larry and Judy Tanenbaum Foundation Fellowships. The representatives of the Assembly of First Nations Women arrived in Haifa from all over Canada to participate in this first program conducted by MCTC/MASHAV.

Emphasizing Women’s Empowerment and Leadership in Israel, the program enabled the participants to meet with mainstream and minority Israeli women leaders and to share experiences. They heard lectures from Israeli specialists on the state of women’s empowerment, gender-budgeting and domestic violence and, from the program’s highly regarded guest lecturer, Dr. Cora Voyageur, Associate Professor of Sociology from Calgary University, were also able to learn more about the culture, heritage, and facts and figures concerning the First Nations.

This first pilot tour ended on a highly positive note with many ideas for future cooperation in the fields of leadership training, empowerment and youth, and with hopes for continued cooperative links between the MCTC/MASHAV/CJC and the First Nations Women.

CICA-MASHAV Seminar on Advanced Agriculture for Development

CICA Secretariat (the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia) conducted in October 2008, a seminar on “Advanced Agriculture for Development” in cooperation with MASHAV. CICA is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world, and the objective of the seminar was to bring together representatives from CICA Member States both at the political and professional level to share national experiences and exchange views on common challenges, innovative technologies and effective instruments for agricultural development.

The seminar, jointly organized by MASHAV and Israel’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the professional aspects implemented in partnership with CINADCO, is a sign of MASHAV’s willingness to cooperate with CICA in the field of international development cooperation, as an expression of Israel’s readiness to contribute towards confidence building measures between governments and peoples.



Ambassador Divon (second from left) and CICA Secretariat delegates

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

A key component in today's concept of international development cooperation - one which finds expression in the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Millennium Declaration 2000* - is the need for greater coordination and cooperation between the many donors providing development and humanitarian assistance around the world, in an attempt to attain maximum efficiency and effectiveness. This process must be implemented in alignment with the development strategies of partner countries throughout the developing world.

MASHAV shares the goals set by the international community for greater synergy among donor and partner countries. Towards this end, MASHAV has signed agreements in partnership with governments, civil society, international organizations, and Jewish organizations in order to achieve maximum coordination of international development activities.

The following are some of the agreements that MASHAV signed during 2008:

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO UN SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Israel signed a partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Program on December 2008 to support developing countries, mainly in Africa. The document was signed by Israeli Ambassador to the UN H.E. Gabriela Shalev and marks a groundbreaking milestone in UN-Israel cooperation in developing countries. According to the agreement, Israel will share its expertise and technological abilities in the fields of agriculture, water, food, health and education.

MASHAV-FAO COOPERATION AGREEMENT

An agreement was signed in Rome on November 2008, between the MASHAV and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to assist developing countries reach the Millennium Development Goals through a joint program focused on capacity building.

MASHAV will work with FAO to design, implement and monitor professional training projects, seminars and workshops to be held both in Israel and developing countries, providing experts to assist FAO in capacity building programs. In return, FAO will make qualified staff available as trainers for MASHAV



Signing of MASHAV-FAO agreement in Rome

sponsored workshops within the framework of a joint program at headquarters, regional and sub regional level as well as at country offices.

The parties will meet again in Israel in February 2009 to discuss the next steps in the program's implementation.

UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL SIGNS COOPERATION MOU

The Director-General of UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, arrived on his first official visit to Israel in February, 2008. During his visit, he met with Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni, and signed an MOU consolidating the relations between Israel and UNESCO. The memorandum defines issues of common interest to both, including: advancing Holocaust education among the UNESCO member states; the development of education in the sub-Saharan states; the development of a network of



Minister Tzipi Livni and Director General Koichiro Matsuura

schools affiliated with UNESCO; and the development of scientific centers in peripheral areas in Africa through MASHAV.

ISRAEL AND UNDP SIGN LETTER OF INTENT

Israel and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) signed, for the first time, a Letter of Intent for cooperation in the field of agriculture. The signing ceremony took place during MASHAV's Conference on "Israel and the African Green Revolution" held in Jerusalem in June 2008.



From left to right: Deputy Director General and Head of MASHAV Haim Divon, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Mr. Gilbert Hounbo, Director Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP, at the signing ceremony (Photo: Eyal Falah)

TRIPARTITE COOPERATION ON SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia; MASHAV; and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), signed in July 2008 a trilateral Declaration of Intent to carry out the political will expressed by the heads of their respective governments to commence cooperation on enhancing irrigated agriculture capacity in Ethiopia. Agriculture is the major source of employment, revenue and export earnings of Ethiopia's population, and agricultural development is a priority for the Ethiopian government - setting irrigation as a major pillar of increasing food production and achieving nutritional self-sufficiency for the country. The Joint Declaration of Intent lays down joint, as well as specific, responsibilities towards the implementation of a needs assessment, and the development of a small-scale irrigation capacity building strategy for the efficient utilization of water resources by Ethiopian



Tripartite Cooperation on Small Scale Irrigation: Ethiopia-MASHAV-GTZ

communities and individual farmer households, in order to increase agricultural productivity and income, and to reduce Ethiopia's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. The three parties also agreed to conduct the study in two experience-exchange missions to Israel and to Ethiopia.

DAIRY DEMONSTRATION AND EXPERIMENTAL FARM IN VIETNAM

The Head of MASHAV, Ambassador Haim Divon, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ho Chi Minh City's People's Committee on the establishment of a Dairy Demonstration and Experimental Project. Dairy farming in Vietnam is developing rapidly, as it is in many other Southeast Asian countries. This is a result of increased economic activity and a rise in per capita income, as well as a continuous increase in population growth.

The existing knowledge on intensive dairy production in Israel, based on professional manpower and modern technologies, has lead the Vietnamese



Signing the MOU on the establishment of the Dairy Demonstration and Experimental Project in Vietnam

authorities to request Israeli assistance with the aim of facilitating efficient milk production under local conditions. The Dairy Demonstration Farm in Vietnam will be based on Israeli technologies and know-how and is planned to be located in the vicinity of Ho Chi Minh City. All professional activities will be carried out under the guidance of Israeli experts, operating in accordance with Israeli working standards.

This project initiative to develop Vietnam's dairy sector will form a joint base for technical cooperation between the two countries and will further strengthen cooperative endeavors and the long-standing close ties between the governments of Vietnam and Israel.

MASHAV COOPERATION WITH THE SHANGHAI CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

A Letter of Intent was signed in June 2008 by MASHAV, the Shanghai Children's Medical Center (SCMC), the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel (SCMCI), and Project HOPE. Cooperation between the two medical centers started in 1998 through the support and coordination of MASHAV and Project HOPE. Cooperation within this framework contributed much to the development of SCMC, helping to medically treat children from the city of Shanghai and from many other parts of China. Future cooperation between the parties will include exchange visits by medical experts from the two medical centers, and advanced medical and nursing training of Chinese experts in Israel.



Signing Ceremony at the Shanghai Children's Medical Center. From left to right: Uri Gutman, Consul General of Israel in Shanghai; Dr. John Howe, President & CEO of Project HOPE; Dr. Joseph Press, Head of Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel; and Mr. Liu Jinfen, President, SCMC

Regional Cooperation

Cooperation with the countries of the Middle East is a MASHAV priority as an expression of support for the peace process with the Arab world. MASHAV believes that working together to solve common problems and meet common challenges can contribute significantly to establishing personal ties in the region. Professionals from Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority participated in a variety of MASHAV courses during the year:

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

The Regional Agricultural Program, in which Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority participate, with Denmark as the initiator and main supporter, is well into its second five-year phase. The program is comprised of six main subjects of agricultural development and is governed by a semi-annual steering committee with representatives of all partners.



Participants in the Milk Processing for Women Course in Israel

This unique program is being carried out under the sponsorship of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), and encompasses a number of topics in the field of agriculture: small ruminants, dryland agriculture, saline and marginal water resources, post-harvest technology and marketing, and aquaculture. The program was established in 2000, and has been successfully carried out even during times of regional tensions. It includes on-site and regional training programs, meetings between experts, joint applied research and participation in international conferences.

During 2008 courses were conducted in Israel on Quality Standards of Fresh Products, Reclaimed Waste Water and Milk Processing for Women, and 13 meetings of partner experts were held, as were 2 meetings of the Program's Steering Committee.

TRILATERAL COOPERATION: EGYPT-ISRAEL-JAPAN

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in March, 2006 between MASHAV, Japan's International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on a Japan-Israel joint training program for Egypt. The purpose of the training is to support the "Mubarak Program" by providing agricultural courses in arid and semi-arid areas for extension officers and graduate settlers in newly reclaimed lands of the Program. Agreed minutes signed by the three parties in March 2006 call for four courses annually for three years (2006-2008). Additional courses under this trilateral agreement have been decided on by a trilateral steering committee. Some 80 participants took part in four courses during 2008. Additional 80 Egyptian participants took part in the long standing bilateral training program.

WOMEN BUILDING A NEW REALITY: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN WOMEN

The 14th in the series of seminars on *Women Building a New Reality – a Dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian Women*, was held at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) in October, 2008. This seminar was attended by 44 participants (36 Palestinian, 18 Israeli), all veterans of earlier seminars and committed to building a new reality. It was held with the assistance, support and encouragement of MASHAV and the German Union of Soroptimist International.

In November, 2003, an International Conference for Women Leaders was held at MCTC, on the topic of *Women's Role in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building*. Resulting from discussions and recommendations from the Conference and with the support and financial cooperation of the German Union of Soroptimist International, a series of was subsequently initiated at MCTC.

These seminars bring approximately 25 Palestinian and Israeli professional and working women from all aspects of civil society, Jews, Druze, Christians and Moslems, to live together at MCTC for 2-3-day intensive programs of debate, discussion, soul-searching and friendship forging. So far a total of almost 400 women have participated in the seminars, of those almost 300 Palestinians. The seminars bring together women creating bonds of mutual understanding, reinforcing values, attitudes and

behavior to promote peace and non-violence. The MCTC partner for the seminars is the "Synergy-Coming from Peace" NGO.

Medical and Humanitarian Assistance Activities

Israel is often called upon to dispatch aid to countries in the wake of flood, famine, and other natural disasters. MASHAV is the body responsible for coordinating Israel's official humanitarian assistance program. In these cases, MASHAV is able to use its vast experience in crisis response in order to rapidly dispatch needed supplies, medicines, and medical assistance to countries in crisis.

In the last few years, MASHAV has sent numerous teams to partner countries to instruct professionals in Emergency and Disaster Medicine. These teams train cadres of doctors, nurses, medical technicians, and administrators to deal with mass casualty events and to treat multiple trauma patients, sharing clinical expertise and procedures for organizing a triaged response to mass casualty events. Theoretical training is accompanied by practical simulation exercises, sometimes with the participation of Civil Defense, Firefighters, Police, and Hospitals, in accordance with scenarios relevant to the specific region.

For many years MASHAV has been conducting "Eye Camps" in partner countries. These prevention and eye-care missions, designed to treat patients suffering from various degrees of blindness and ocular disease, are undertaken by teams of 2 Israeli ophthalmologists and operate on the premises of local hospitals or clinics. Hundreds of surgical procedures are performed by the visiting Israeli teams which work together with local staff, restoring sight to many of the patients. Israeli ophthalmologists also train the local personnel, and ophthalmologic equipment and supplies are donated by the Government of Israel.

The following are examples of MASHAV activities in this field during 2008:

HUMANITARIAN AID SHIPMENTS

- ◆ In May 2008, a first shipment was sent to **China** to the earthquake zone in **Sichuan Province**, containing 3.5 tons of equipment, including blankets, sleeping bags, and water purifiers. Later, a jumbo jet was dispatched to the earthquake zone with equipment valued at US\$1.4 million which

included tents, blankets, sleeping bags, medicines, generators, operating beds, equipment for medical operations, medical devices (such as ECG devices), and water purification systems. At present, MASHAV is examining the possibility of setting up a clinic or adopting one of the affected regions, and upgrading the medical setup there. An integrated delegation is being organized to examine the needs and build a rehabilitation plan.

- ◆ Seven tons of medical equipment for the casualties of the **Myanmar** earthquake was dispatched to the affected area. We are examining the possibility of upgrading the initial medical setup at the camps by providing training and counseling, and shipping equipment and medicines.
- ◆ Aid with an emphasis on medical equipment and medicines on a large and medium scale was dispatched at the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008 to **Nicaragua, Moldova, Uganda, Kenya, Bangui - Central African Republic (for Darfur refugees), Nigeria, the Cote d'Ivoire** and the **Congo**.
- ◆ Two ambulances were donated for populations in the outlying regions of **Kenya**.

EYE CAMPS

Eye camps continue to be held throughout the African continent: **Cameroon, Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania** and **Cote d'Ivoire**.

UPGRADING MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- ◆ Two infrastructure upgrading projects were established in **Eritrea**: A treatment unit for diving casualties was established in **Massawa**, as was an intensive care unit (ICU) in **Asmara**.
- ◆ A dialysis unit was established in **Dakar, Senegal**, and assistance in maintenance and training was provided.

NEONATOLOGY UNITS

MASHAV is setting up two units in **Kumasi, Ghana**, to reduce infant mortality. One unit was completed recently, and we are preparing training courses and supplementary counseling to put it into service. Preparations are underway for the construction of the second unit; this will be followed by counseling and training.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MEDICINE

Training and counseling was provided in **Mumbai, India; Kumasi, Ghana; Nairobi, Kenya; and Uganda** - for all parties involved in handling disasters, such as relevant government ministries, the entire medical

establishment, the fire brigade, the local authorities, the airport authority, the police, and more.



MOBILE CLINICS

- ◆ **Cambodia**: We are purchasing and outfitting mobile units in order to set up a medical system for mother and child care in the rural regions of Cambodia.
- ◆ **Pacific Region**: Preparations are underway to station two doctors in **Nauru** for a two-month period.
- ◆ We are formulating a diabetes treatment program in for the Pacific Region, with a pilot program in **Samoa** and **Palau**, including sending experts and building an extensive program in conjunction with several hospitals in Israel.
- ◆ **Vanuatu**: An Israeli doctor recently completed a one-and-a-half month mission in family medicine and organization of public health.

COOPERATION WITH UN ORGANIZATIONS

- ◆ **WHO (World Health Organization)**: Preparations are underway to implement a joint program. Decision makers and experts involved in preparing for emergencies in **Eastern Europe** and the **CIS** recently came to Israel to study and further their knowledge on the topic. The second phase involves promoting a multi-year agreement with the WHO to train senior personnel in Israel.
- ◆ **UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)**: We are working on a plan to promote a joint water security program in the **Eurasian** countries.
- ◆ **UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency)**: Cooperation on water and sanitation issues at refugee camps (**Kakoma, Kenya; Bangui, Central African Republic; Burma; and Chad**) is being promoted. In addition, Israeli experts are slated to be added to the organization's database of experts.