

# MASHAV

## News

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### FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS AFRICA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Liberman arrived in September 2nd, 2009 in Ethiopia, to begin his visit to Africa. FM Liberman was accompanied by a large economic delegation, as well as by government officials, including Ambassador Haim Divon, head of MASHAV. FM Liberman and Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Seyoum Mesfin, signed a cooperation agreement between Israel and Ethiopia. During his visit to Ethiopia, FM Liberman inaugurated the Butajira Center of Excellence for Horticulture for developing human resources in agriculture in Ethiopia, a tripartite project of the two countries and the USAID [See page 38].

The Foreign Minister continued his tour of Africa, meeting in Kenya, with the President of the State and the various government ministers. FM Liberman and Kenyan Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula signed a declaration of cooperation in the areas of health, agriculture, education, security, emergency services, energy, water and irrigation. Following this agreement, FM Liberman and the Kenyan Minister of Water and Irrigation signed an agreement to increase cooperation between the two countries in the management of water resources and in the introduction of modern irrigation methods to the agricultural sector.

While in Kenya, FM Liberman participated in a signing ceremony renewing Israel's agreement of cooperation with HABITAT - The United Nations Human Settlements



Program. MASHAV and HABITAT have cooperated for the past three years, addressing the needs and problems of urbanization in Africa, South America, and Asia.

The FM next stop was Ghana, where he met with President John Evans Atta Mills. FM Liberman and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni, signed a cooperation agreement according to which Israel will assist Ghana in increasing fish production for export and local consumption. The ministers also signed a joint declaration to expand cooperation in the fields of agriculture, education, medicine, water management, and pisciculture, and to increase trade between the two states.

FM Liberman continued to Nigeria, where he signed a cooperation agreement between ECOWAS (The Economic Community of West African States) and MASHAV with emphasis on reducing poverty and preservation and protection of the environment. The FM concluded his tour of Africa in Uganda. FM Liberman stated that the aim of the agreements signed is to transform good intentions into reality, and to continue the fertile cooperation between the African states and Israel.

## AGRITECH ISRAEL 2009: TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURE – TODAY

The renowned International Agritech Israel Exhibition took place at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds in May 2009, presenting the ever improving agro-technologies of Israel.

Israel's agricultural sector is characterized by an intensive system of production stemming from the need to overcome the scarcity in natural resources, particularly water and arable land. The constant growth in agricultural production is due to the close cooperation between researchers, extensionists, farmers and agriculture-related industries, which together develop and apply new methods in all agricultural branches. The result is modern agriculture flourishing in a country in which over half its land is desert.

During the exhibition, MASHAV took part in the International Conference on "The Global Food Crisis: Meeting the Challenge." The conference was a unique and unprecedented occasion in which the best minds, from Israel and abroad, policy makers as well as professionals, joined together to provide an ample scope of analysis based on their experiences. The analysis incorporated various points of view regarding how policy, planning, management,

science and technology, extension, and farming would all be utilized to create a new and better equilibrium between the supply and demand of quality food for all.



Ambassador Haim Divon, Head of MASHAV takes the stand during the International Conference. Sitting from right to left: Father Godfrey Nzamujo, Songhai Center; H.E Mr. Gilbert Houngbo, Prime Minister of the Togolese Republic, former Head of Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP; Mrs. Fernanda Guerieri, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Mr. Daly Belgasmi, Director, World Food Program, Geneva

## DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES MASHAV SYMPOSIUM

On July 1, 2009, MASHAV launched a symposium for the staff of its professional training centers. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Danny Ayalon opened the symposium by addressing the participants. Deputy FM Ayalon noted that, "Israel is committed to meeting the challenges of development. MASHAV is a very important element in Israel's foreign policy - morally, politically and economically." Ambassador Haim Divon, Head of MASHAV, briefed the participants in the symposium on MASHAV's commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, including adapting activities to the development challenges of the 21st century, and adjusting its targets to the changing needs of the developing world.

MASHAV conducts extensive training programs, both in Israel and abroad, in a wide variety of fields, including agriculture, health, empowerment of women, socio-economic development, and education. The work is carried out at professional training centers, in cooperation with relevant government ministries. Over the course of fifty-one years, MASHAV has provided hands-on instruction to over



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Danny Ayalon

a quarter of a million trainees in Israel and abroad. Deputy FM Ayalon, who began his career at the Foreign Ministry in MASHAV, noted that he looks forward to meeting once again with the MASHAV experts, who translate into action Israel's desire to share experience and expertise with other countries. "The knowledge that we share with the nations of the world helps improve life in many countries while strengthening our ties with them."

## MARKING 25 YEARS OF MCTC-TIFF COOPERATION

As the Study Tour for Thai Educators, held under the auspices of the Thai Israel Friendship Foundation (TIFF), came to an end in April 2009, a remarkable celebration took place at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) to mark twenty-five years of MASHAV/MCTC cooperation with TIFF. Several former Israeli Ambassadors, Honorary-Consuls to Thailand, and MCTC staff members, both past and present, attended the event. A tree was planted in the MCTC garden for Mom Anong Nilubol, President of TIFF, and warm and appreciative speeches were made in her honor by the distinguished guests. MCTC Director Mazal Renford expressed the profound gratitude for Mom Anong's great strides in creating 'citizens of the future,' through her initiatives and involvement in Israeli- Thai cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture.



Ambassador Benjamin Avileah of MASHAV looks on as Course Director Janette Hirschmann presents Mom Anong Nilubol, President of the Thai Israel Friendship Foundation, with a gift during her celebratory visit to MCTC.

## ISRAELI DELEGATION ADDRESSES UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In February 2009, an Israeli delegation addressed the Economic and Social Council's annual Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD17) at the UN Headquarters in New York. The delegation included representatives from the Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

Addressing issues of desertification and drought, land use, and development across Africa, the delegation offered Israel's expertise and insight on the complex issues facing global sustainable development.

## CICA-MASHAV SEMINAR ON ADVANCED AGRICULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT

In October 2008, CICA Secretariat (the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia) conducted a seminar on "Advanced Agriculture for Development" in cooperation with MASHAV. CICA is a multinational forum aimed at enhancing worldwide cooperation towards the promotion of peace, security and stability, in Asia and in the rest of the world. The seminar brought together representatives from CICA Member States, both at the political and the professional levels, who shared national experiences and exchanged views on common challenges, innovative technologies, and effective instruments for agricultural development.

of international development cooperation, and expressed Israel's readiness to contribute towards confidence building measures between governments and peoples.

The seminar was jointly organized by MASHAV and Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the professional aspects implemented in partnership with CINADCO (The Center for International Agricultural Development Cooperation). The seminar demonstrated MASHAV's readiness to cooperate with CICA in the field



Ambassador Divon and CICA Secretariat delegates

## 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 came as part of a program organized by MASHAV and CINADCO. The program covered many subjects, including fertilization and pressurized irrigation, administration of urban water, and treatment of recycled water for irrigation. Over the course of the coming year, Israeli and Jordanian water experts will share their expertise in four week-long workshops, two of which will take place in Israel, and two in Jordan.



## MASHAV-WHO PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COURSE

The second course on Public Health and Emergency Management (PHEM Euro 2) was held in Israel in June 2009. The course was hosted and implemented jointly by MASHAV, the Israeli Ministry of Health, and the World Health Organization (WHO). The objective of the course was to foster health security in the regions from which the participants came, and to enhance the capacity of their respective health care systems by providing the participants with the principles, knowledge, policies, and skills needed for disaster preparedness and response.

The course addressed various types of emergencies, including natural, man-made and technological disasters, and focused on managerial practices before, during and

after an event. During the course, presenters spoke about risk management as a framework for policy making and planning within the national development process, and the participants were provided with opportunities to practice the knowledge and skills presented. Participants in the course included representatives from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Upon the completion of the program, participants remarked that the course significantly enhanced the knowledge and skill level they needed in order to improve their countries' health systems with regard to preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters.

## ETHIOPIA, ISRAEL, AND GERMANY LAUNCH TRIPARTITE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

In June 2009, Ethiopia, Israel, and Germany launched a tripartite agricultural development project, to enable Ethiopia to enhance small-scale irrigation development activities in different parts of the nation. Expected to benefit over 1,000 farmers, the pilot project will be implemented in the regions of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and South Ethiopia Peoples' States. The project will complement the government's efforts geared toward ensuring food security and self-sufficiency. The three-year project was launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the premises of the Israeli Embassy, in the presence of Beshir Abdulahi, Ethiopia's Agriculture and Rural Development State Minister, Dr. Claas Dieter Knoop, German Ambassador to Ethiopia, and Oded Ben-Haim, Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia.



From left to right: German Ambassador to Ethiopia, Dr. Claas Dieter Knoop; Agriculture and Rural Development State Minister, Beshir Abdulahi Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia, Oded Ben-Haim. Photo: Andrea Bahm – GTZ

## MASHAV-UN DESA INTER-SESSIONAL EVENT FOR CSD-17

In March 2009, the Government of Israel, through MASHAV and in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), organized a capacity building workshop at an inter-sessional event for CSD-17 on *"The Role of Native and Desert-Adapted Species for the Purpose of Slowing Desertification."* The workshop was held at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, located on Kibbutz Ketura in the south of Israel.

The workshop was aimed at sharing Israeli experiences, proven methods, and best practices for developing practical methods of reversing trends of soil degradation. Topics included hydrological strategies and information on native and desert-adapted plant species, with the goal of promoting methods for improving both food security and economic opportunity.

## ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO UN SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THE UNDP

Israel signed a partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Program in December 2008, promising support to developing countries, mainly in Africa. The document was signed by H.E Gabriela Shalev, Israeli Ambassador to the UN 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.

## MCTC WORKSHOP ON PREVENTING TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS

In May 2009, the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) in Haifa, hosted its third International Workshop on *Preventing Trafficking of Human Beings*, in cooperation with MASHAV, along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), as part of the worldwide effort to tackle this immense humanitarian problem.

The topic of *Preventing Trafficking of Human Beings* emerged as a direct consequence of MCTC's 2005 biennial International Women Leaders' Conference on Migration and *Gender Issues within the Millennium Development Goals*. Since then, a series of activities conducted by MCTC have taken place regularly, both in Israel and abroad, on this vitally important and timely topic. The International Workshop was attended by thirty experienced professionals, representing



seventeen countries from the African, Asian, Central and Eastern European, and Latin American continents, where trafficking in human beings is a grave issue.

Guest of Honor, Mme Ndiore Ndiaye, IOM Deputy Director-General, emphasized three key issues: Preventing trafficking by focusing on root causes, strengthening protection for all migrants, and strengthening research and evaluation. MCTC hopes to tackle some of the most urgent topics in its 2010 program.

## ISRAELI WATER EXPERTS HOLD SEMINAR IN BAKU

A five-day seminar on Water Resources Management for Combating Desertification was held in April 2009 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel and the UN Development Program Office. Two Israeli water resource experts shared their experiences with twenty-seven Azerbaijani specialists from various fields, including representatives from the Ministry of Ecology and National Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as Azerbaijan's Water Commission and NGOs.

The final day of the seminar was attended by Firdovsi Aliyev, the Deputy Minister of Ecology and National Resources of Azerbaijan Arthur Lenk, Israel's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, and Bruno Pouezet, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan. Deputy Minister Aliyev, who himself is a graduate of the MASHAV training

program at Israel's Kibbutz Shfayim, called on Azerbaijan to continue to cooperate with Israel on new technological developments in the fields of ecology and agriculture.



## MASHAV-UNDP COOPERATION IN UZBEKISTAN

Israeli experts in the field of agriculture conducted a seminar on Sustainable Development of Cattle Breeding within the framework of MASHAV-UNDP, with the cooperation of the Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management. The seminar covered topics such as cattle rationing, and

the influence of nutrition and forage reserve on milk productivity, and introduced the participants to modern technologies and innovations in the field of agro-chemistry and agronomy.

## STUDY TOUR FOR TURKISH EXPERTS

In March 2009, a delegation of twenty-two professionals working in the field of the education of hearing-impaired children attended an intensive ten day workshop in Haifa, Israel. The program was carried out by the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC). Their visit was the fourth in a series of activities between MCTC, in cooperation with the Jewish Distribution Committee (JDC), and the Association of Deaf Children and Their Parents (TIS&IED), an Istanbul-based organization for the education and support of hearing-impaired infants, pre-schoolers and their parents. In addition to interactive lectures from prominent Israeli experts, the program also included tours of Israeli centers which are dedicated to educating very young children with hearing-impairment.

At the ceremony marking the end of the tour, H.E. Mr. Namik Tan, Turkish Ambassador to Israel, spoke warmly of the project. Head of MASHAV, Ambassador Haim Divon, expressed MASHAV's enthusiasm for continued cooperation with Turkey. Mr. Ami Bergman from JDC offered the

participants his organization's assistance in advancing their projects. With this enthusiastic support, the group members were able to return to Istanbul with plans to establish Istanbul's first pilot-project center for the support of very young hearing-impaired children and their families.



## THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CELEBRATES AFRICA DAY 2009

In June 2009, under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Avigdor Liberman, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a special program and reception in honor of Africa Day 2009. Dr. Uzi Landau, Minister of National Infrastructures, addressed the audience. The celebration of Africa Day in Israel has become a tradition, which expresses the long-term friendship and cooperation between Israel and the African nations. In

attendance at the event were ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps from Africa and other countries, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the Israel-Africa Friendship Society, representatives of governmental ministries, representatives of commercial companies active in Africa, participants in MASHAV courses from Africa and representatives of academic institutions.



Africa Day (from left to right): H.E. Mr Sam Azubuike Dada Olise, Nigerian Ambassador to Israel; Ambassador Yaacov (Jacques) Revach Deputy Director General for Africa, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Uzi Landau, Minister of National Infrastructures, H.E. Mr. Fesseha Asghedom Tessema, Ambassador of Ethiopia (FDRE), Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Israel; and Ambassador Haim Divon, Head of MASHAV

## RESTORING SIGHT IN VIETNAM

The Israeli Embassy in Vietnam, with the support of MASHAV and together with the Israeli NGO "Eye from Zion," the Jewish Distribution Committee (JDC), and the Vietnamese National Institute of Ophthalmology (VNIO), carried out a humanitarian mission in Nghe An and Ninh Binh provinces in February 2009.

The two-week mission included four leading Israeli ophthalmologists, who, accompanied by Vietnamese doctors and nurses, conducted over 200 surgical procedures to restore eyesight. For many years, MASHAV has been conducting "eye-camps," – blindness prevention and eye-care missions in partner countries. These missions, designed to treat patients suffering from various degrees of blindness and ocular disease, are undertaken by teams of 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 ophthalmological equipment and supplies are donated by the Government of Israel.



## MASHAV-FAO COOPERATION AGREEMENT

MASHAV and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), signed an agreement in Rome in November 2008, to assist developing countries in reaching the Millennium Development Goals through a joint program focused on capacity building. MASHAV pledged to work with FAO to design, implement and monitor professional training projects, seminars and workshops, which will be held both in Israel and developing countries. MASHAV also promised to provide experts to assist FAO in capacity building programs. In return, FAO offered its qualified staff as trainers for MASHAV-sponsored workshops within the framework of a joint program held at headquarters, at regional and sub-regional levels and at offices throughout the country.

The Israeli delegation expressed deep satisfaction with the strengthening of ties between the two organizations, and

with the agreement to join forces in the future for the sake of common goals. The FAO is pleased with the inclusion of Israeli expertise and know-how in matters that are essential for agricultural development in arid and semi-arid areas.



## ISRAELI HUMANITARIAN AID TO SRI LANKA

A shipment of medical equipment and medicines, contributed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, was delivered to the Sri Lankan health authorities on June 2009.

The MFA had responded to the request of the Sri Lankan president, who requested the assistance of the international community. Due to the war against the Tamil rebels, a severe

crisis was created in the northeastern region of the country, leaving 300,000 people homeless and forced to live under terrible conditions. The humanitarian shipment, which was collected and organized by MASHAV, Israel's National Agency for International Development Cooperation, was presented by Ruth Kahanoff, MFA deputy Director General for Asia and the Pacific, who was visiting Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka.

## MASHAV LAUNCHES NEW LOGO

Israel's international development cooperation program began in 1958, only a decade after the country's War of Independence, with the establishment of MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation. Since its inception, over 250,000 professionals from all over the world participated in MASHAV's training activities both in Israel and abroad. In accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, MASHAV has refocused its programs from supply-driven to demand-driven, in order to assist countries in fulfilling their national development strategies. Moreover, MASHAV's priorities emphasize working together with partner countries, UN organizations, aid agencies, the civil society and the private sector to further national capacities.



## USAID – MASHAV – MoARD ENHANCING JOINT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA



The Butajira Center of Excellence for Horticulture in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is undergoing a successful agricultural development process within the framework of the “Agricultural Development-led Industrialization” (ADLI) development strategy, facing the challenge of enhancing agricultural development in a predominantly rural agricultural setting, where about 85% of the population is engaged in small-scale, traditional farming. Following this initiative, poverty reduction strategies and other related programs were developed in collaboration with the international donor community.

Within this operating framework, a Joint Technical Cooperation Program Agreement was signed in February 2005 between the USAID Technical Assistance Program to Ethiopia; the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia - MoARD; and Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation – MASHAV, through its professional affiliate CINADCO - the Center for International Agricultural Development Cooperation.

This Joint Technical Cooperation Program was formulated with the aim of enhancing food security in Ethiopia by introducing and assimilating advanced agricultural practices, supported by appropriate technologies, capacity building, advisory consultancies, study trips

and the dissemination of know-how, focusing on selected agricultural topics in specific, targeted agricultural fields.

Upon completion of the First Phase of the Joint Program (2006-2009) the parties agreed to extend and continue the Joint Technical Cooperation Agreement. In this context the second phase will be carried out during the period of 2010 - 2011. This joint technical cooperation program is targeted to coincide with the national development objectives of Ethiopia and aims at contributing to the sustainable development of the horticultural sector, by enhancing capacity building, management and implementation.

The Program was initially based on three major agricultural topics identified as priority areas: Bio-technology/Nursery Development; Water & Irrigation and Livestock Husbandry. During the implementation process, the parties expanded the program activities by adding the topic of Horticulture Nursery Development for Improved and High-quality Selected Tree Crops. The Second Phase of the Joint Program will focus on Biotechnology and increasing laboratory production capabilities, as well as on the transition from research to large scale production of high quality propagation matter.