

The visiting Israeli President Reuvin Rivlin and Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for MHRD pledge cooperation in number of areas.

**Two Israeli Universities, Haifa University of Israel and IDC Herzliya Sign MoU with the Welingkar Institute of Management (WeSchool)**

**In the presence of the visiting Israeli President Reuvin Rivlin and Mr Prakash Javadekar, the Union minister for HRD, two Israeli Universities, Haifa University of Israel and IDC Herzliya Sign MoU with the Welingkar Institute of Management (WeSchool) at a high profile meet in New Delhi.**

WeSchool was represented by Adv. Sohanlal K. Jain Chairman, Managing Council, S P Mandali Trust, governing WeSchool and Prof. Dr. Uday Salunkhe, Group Director, WeSchool. The University of Haifa was represented by Prof. Ron Robin-President, Prof. Gustavo Mesch-Rector and Prof Soshi Zalka. IDC Herzliya was represented by Prof. Uriel Reichman-President.

Welingkar had last year signed MoUs with three other Israeli universities which included -Tel-Aviv University, Ben Gurion University of the Negev and IDC Herzliya. **Earlier this year in July the Tel Aviv University and WeSchool came together and hosted the Med4Dev India-Israel Affordable Healthcare Hackathon.**

The Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research (WeSchool) is an established b-school with campuses in Mumbai and Bengaluru and is known for its thrust on innovation, entrepreneurship, technology, leadership development and the ever-growing scope of e-commerce. The business school was recently awarded by the AICTE-CII for its Industry Institute Linkage and has highly sought after programs in Business Analytics, Business Design and Innovation, Healthcare Management, Rural Management, Retail among others.

**Speaking on the occasion President Reuvin Rivlin highlighted** the need of excellence and quality in research along with the need of modern facilities and international collaborations. Pointing out the growing number of Indian scholars in Israel he said almost 10 percent of the foreign students in Israel are Indians. Tel Aviv University, even offers Marathi classes. He said the signed agreements marked a new step in the growing partnership between the two countries. The two countries inked pledges of cooperation in fields of study: Technology, Agriculture, Archeology, Biology, and many more. These include exchanges at all levels: from students to senior faculty members. It reflected the strong belief two nations have in their relationship and it's being good for both. "That together, we are much stronger, wiser, better."

**Prakash Javadekar, the minister for HRD said** the signing of MoUs was just the beginning. He expressed his solidarity with the spirit guiding the collaborations said he would ensure that things work out effectively. Also, he mentioned that every time he had been to the country

(Israel) he was mightily impressed by their zeal for excellence in research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Adv. Sohanlal K. Jain Chairman, S P Mandali, expressing his sentiments** said he was happy to see the academia from both the countries collaborating and hence giving a more defined and effective shape to the warmth between the two nations.” **Dr. Uday Salunkhe sharing his thoughts on the same, said,** “Living in an era of globalization, with opportunities we share some common concerns too. It will be prudent to join hands, gaining from each other’s strength and use the collective wisdom to bring about transformation in areas that are critical for national development and growth.”

The by- invite-only audience had Presidents of four well respected Israeli Universities. These included Tel- Aviv University, Hebrew University, Ben Gurion University of the Negev and IDC Herzliya. Also present on the occasion were, Rectors from a few other universities, a 15-member education delegation, Israeli Higher Education Council, equivalent of India’s University Grants Commission and Yafa Zilbershatz, Chairperson- Committee for Budgets and Planning, Ministry of Education, Israel. On the Indian side, UGC’s Chairperson Dr. Ved Prakash and Vice Chancellors, Directors and Deans from some of the very well respected institutions were present during the ceremony.

#### **About the Universities-**

Haifa University of Israel, founded in 1963 is one of the seven research universities of Israel with a strength of 18 K plus. It offers programs in Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Science and Science Education, Social Welfare and Health Studies, Education and Management.

IDC Herzliya Founded by the renowned Israeli Professor Uriel Reichman in 1994, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya is a non-profit organization set on the lines of Ivy League universities in the U.S. In the twenty years since its establishment, IDC Herzliya success has drawn both international recognition and some of the finest lecturers and researchers from around the world to the University. It aims to train the future leaders, to nurture a financial, political, technological, and legal leadership of the highest caliber.

Tel Aviv University (TAU) is one the prestigious universities currently ranked among top 150 universities globally; has partnered with renowned Indian universities such as Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad; Indian School of Business, Hyderabad; and Jindal Global Law School for their exchange programs.

Ben-Gurion University of Negev, a 40+ year old institution works closely with the government and the municipality, the Israel Defence Forces, and leading multinational high-tech corporations on cyber research, education, and business development. This is their first academic association in the India.

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