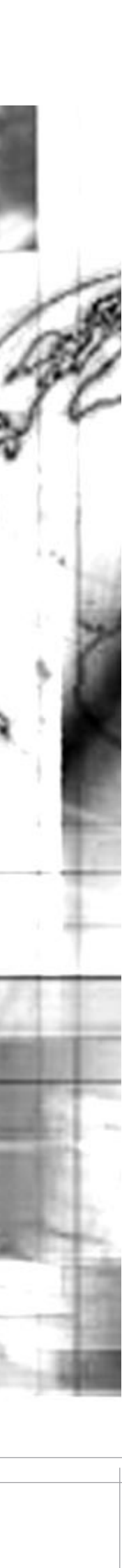




Israel National Commission for UNESCO

**Bi-Annual Report
2002-2003**



Biannual Report: 2002-2003

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1. Background

Over the past two years, the activity of Israel National Commission for UNESCO (INCU) has become an established part of Israel's civil society. Dozens of non-governmental organizations maintain contacts with the Commission secretariat, advising, cooperating and sponsoring international and local programs. Universities and Teacher

Colleges also seek the Commission's support. Cultural and social institutions look to the Commission for aid and assistance in disseminating information throughout the world.

The committees continue to operate in accordance with UNESCO headquarters' biannual plan of action. Their respective agendas are determined by the chairpersons. During the past two years, the committees have convened several times and approved programs, organized conferences and supported projects carried out by various organizations.

One of the main objectives was to institutionalize the activity of the secretariat and the committees; consequently, the operation of the committees became better coordinated, information about projects in Israel and abroad was widely disseminated, and Israeli representatives have taken part in UNESCO inter-governmental meetings.

During the last two years, the following members have left the commission: the late Mr. David Granit; Mr. Mordechai Yadid (International Organizations) and Mr. Dani Kiram (Cultural and Scientific) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Professor Hagit Messer-Yaron, Chief Scientist, the Ministry of Science; the late Professor Nehemia Levzion, Chairman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee, Council for Higher Education. The following members have joined: Ms. Tali Rosenbaum, Director General, Ministry of Science and Technology; Mr. Rafi Schutz, and Mr. Roni Leshno - Yaar Deputies Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Commission maintains close and productive collaboration with various ministries: Education, Culture and Sports; Science and Technology; Foreign Affairs; Tourism; Environment; and Infrastructure. This collaboration includes information exchanges, professional assistance, support and financing for programs and projects of common interest. In addition, the Commission coordinates its activities with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, colleges and cultural establishments, government authorities, the Israeli National Academy of Sciences, the Jewish National Fund (JNF), the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the National Parks Authority. The Commission is also in contact with local authorities concerning the conservation and monitoring of world heritage sites in Israel.

Internationally, the commission has collaborated with the national commissions of Korea, Germany, the Palestinian Authority (indirectly), France, Switzerland and Poland.

UNESCO publications have been disseminated among professionals in government and academic circles.

Capacity building has been carried out through the UNESCO fellowship program. Architect Tal Eyal, of the Tel Aviv Municipality preservation team, received a scholarship in the area of urban preservation. In science, a L'Oréal scholarship was awarded to the young scientist, Ms. Victoria Yalevsky of Ben-Gurion University.

The Foreign Ministry's International Cooperation Division (MASHAV) has been forced to curtail its activity vis-à-vis UNESCO due to budget cuts, resulting in a limit of 40 trainees compared to 80 in recent years. This year, as well, Council for Higher Education has continue to allocate Post-Doctoral fellowships in the Sciences and Engineering for researchers from least-developed countries.

As in former years, the Israel National Commission for UNESCO coordinated and briefed the Israel delegation for the 32nd General Conference, which took place in October 2003 in Paris. However, representation in the committees was not complete.

Delegation for the 32nd UNESCO General Conference (October 2003)

Name	Position
Mr. Jacques Revach	Ambassador to UNESCO, Israel Embassy in Paris
Prof. Yacob Katz	Pedagogic Secretariat Chairman, Chairman of the Education Committee
Adv. Micha Yinon	Head of the Cultural Administration, Chairman of the Culture Committee
Prof. Michael Turner	Chairman of Israel World Heritage Committee, Bezalel Academy
Ms. Pnina El-Al	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Elliott Minchenberg	Assistant to Israel Ambassador to UNESCO
Mr. Daniel Bar-Eli	Secretary General, Israel National Commission for UNESCO

One of the most important manifestations of the strengthened relationship with UNESCO headquarters is the participation in the organization's activities during the last two years. Almost all committees' chairpersons have taken part in intergovernmental committees of: MAB, IIHP, WHC, IOC, EFA, MOST, and SESAME.

Participation in UNESCO Intergovernmental Conferences

Field	Topic	Location	Dates	Delegates
Education	SEMEP	Greece	April 2002 April 2003	Dr. Farid Hamdan & Ms. Gila Madori: Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
Science	IOC	France	June-July 2002	Dr. Yuval Cohen: Institute for Marine Research
	SESAME	France	July 2002	Prof. Moshe Deutsch: Bar-Ilan University; Prof. Eliezer Rabinovich: Hebrew University
		France	November 2002	
		Amman	January 2003	
		Rabbat	December 2003	
	IIHP	France	June 2002	Prof. Dan Ronnen: Ben-Gurion University
	EURO-MAB	Rome	October 2002	Prof. Tamar Dayan: Tel-Aviv University
Culture	IOC	France	March 2003	Dr. Yitzhak Guttman: Institute of Oceanography
	IMC	Uruguay	October 2003	Prof. Edwin Sarousi: Hebrew University
World Heritage	WHC	France	April /June/ November 2002 March 2003	Prof. Michael Turner: Bezalel Academy; Dr. Yossi Leshem: Tel-Aviv University; Dr. Uzi Dahari, Antiquities Authority; Arch. Dani Keiser: Tel-Aviv Municipality
	The Great Rift Valley (GRV)		May 2002	
	General Assembly (WHC)		October 2003	
Human & and Social Sciences	IBC	France	July 2002	Prof. Michel Revel: Weizmann Institute
		Canada	November 2002	
		France	April 2003	
	MOST	France	March 2003	Prof. Rami Friedman: Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya
Information for All	IFA	France	March 2002	Prof. Niv Ahituv: Tel-Aviv University

With financing and support from the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, Israeli researchers and experts have taken part in UNESCO-organized meetings: Biodiversity Convention (Germany); Historical Cities (Rhodes, Greece); Language in a Heterogeneous Classroom (France); World Heritage University Forum (Canary Islands); Culture for Peace (Korea).

Participation of Israeli Experts in Meetings Sponsored by UNESCO*

Subject	Location	Date	Participants
World Heritage Convention	Malta	April 2003	Ehud Galili: Antiquities Authority
Biodiversity Convention	Germany	September 2002	Dr. Eliezer Frankenberg: Nature and Parks Authority
Int'l Conference on Cultural Properties Stolen from Iraq	France	July 2003	Amir Ganor: Antiquities Authority
Historical Cities (OWHC)	Rhodes	September 2003	Dr. Anna Levkowitz-Katz: Technion, Haifa
Sustainable Development	Hungary	April 2003	Justice Shlomo Shoham; Nira Lamai: Future Generation Commission
	France	December 2002	
Language in a Heterogeneous Classroom	France	September 2002	Prof. Illit Olshtein: Hebrew University
Mediterranean Women's Forum	Greece	October 2003	Ms. Amira Abu-Rukkon & Ms. Mazal Ranford: Carmel Center
The Information Society (WSIS)	Germany	June 2002	Prof. Niv Ahituv, Ms. Karin Barzilai-Nahon: Tel-Aviv University
	Romania	February 2003	Prof. Niv Ahituv: Tel-Aviv University
The Bauhaus Center	Germany	May 2003	Prof. Michael Turner: Bezalel Academy
University Forum for World Heritage	Spain	November 2003	Prof. Elli Stern: Ben-Gurion University
New Media and Information Technologies	Rhodes	November 2002	Prof. Niv Ahituv: Tel-Aviv University
Culture for Peace	Korea	September 2002	Dr. Sarah Ossetzky-Lazar: Givat Haviva
World Summit Information Society	Switzerland	December 2003	Ms. Yaffa Vigotzky, Prof. Niv Ahituv, Ms. Karin Nahon-Barzilay, Mr. Shmuel Revel, Mr. Daniel Bar-Elli
National ASP Coordinators	Finland	September 2002	Dr. Yael Harel: Beit Berl College

* Financed also by Kashtum, foreign ministry

2. Committees' Report

Despite its limited human and financial resources, the Israel National Commission for UNESCO manages to function and carried out the biannual activity. Committee chairpersons are continuously involved in the secretariat's activity, and take part in UNESCO's intergovernmental committees.

Activity vis-à-vis UNESCO headquarters has gained new momentum, reflected in professional openness and a general spirit of cooperation. We are under no illusions that the UNESCO secretariat has suddenly become supportive of Israel. However, quiet and professional work may open up "doors" that will allow more opportunities. This was also manifested in visits by UNESCO mission, as part of the Director General's program for dialogue and reconciliation in the Middle East.

Participation of Israel Delegates in UNESCO Meetings

Subject	Location	Dates	Participants
Follow-up on the Dakkar Declaration – Adult Education	Bulgaria	November 2002	Dr. Ethan Israeli
CONFINTEA – Lifelong Education	Thailand	November 2003	Ms. Ruth Blum
Education for Peace	Austria	January 2003	Dr. Yael Harel
Jubilee of UNESCO-Associated Schools (ASP)	New Zealand	August 2003	Dr. Yael Harel
Multicultural Education	Finland	June 2003	Dr. Ilana Heshin & Ms. Gal Springman
Thirty Years of Higher Education (CEPES)	Romania	September 2002	Prof. Nehemia Levzion (deceased)
World Heritage: Thirtieth Anniversary	Italy	October 2003	Prof. Michael Turner, Dr. Yossi Leshem
ICOMOS General Assembly	Spain	November 2002	Eng. Jacob Sheffer, Mr. Avi Shoket
	Zimbabwe	November 2003	Adv. Gideon Koren
Intangible Heritage	Paris	June 2002	Adv. David Kornblit
		October 2002	Adv. Dassi Greenberg
Textbooks Review	Paris	December 2002	Mr. Moshe Ilan
	Germany	December 2002	Ms. Nava Sagan
European Region General Secretaries	Budapest	June 2002	Mr. Daniel Bar-Elli
Environmental Education (SEMPEP)	Turkey	April 2003	Mr. Farid Hamdan

Locally, the Commission has succeeded in organizing a network of activities, using the INCU name and logo to sponsor programs and projects and, in some cases, has secured limited financial support.

International Conferences in Israel

Title	Dates	Area
The Great Rift Valley	September-October 2002	World Heritage (WH)
Multicultural Education for Peace	February 2002	Beit Berl (ASP)
Plan for Management World Heritage Archaeological Sites	February 2002	ICOMOS International
The Digital Gap	December 2003	Information for All Committee (IFA)
Biodiversity	July 2002	Man and Biosphere Committee (MAB)
International Teachers' Convention	June 2002	Israel ASP – Mofet Center

Education for All

Under the guidance of Professor Yacob Katz, Chairman of the Pedagogic Secretariat and the Israel Education Committee, extensive activities were undertaken in this area:

- Student exchanges between Israel and Poland, the Youth Exchange Council July 2002
- Ten schools have joined the ASP network
- A German foundation financed legal counseling for youth at risk (Hebrew University Law School)
- Sponsorship of the Fourth International Teachers' Convention (June 2002, Achva Teachers' College)
- In collaboration with the Adult Education Division, a conference on International Mother Tongue Day, attended by the Director General of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, and the UNESCO Commission Chairperson (February 2002)
- International conference on Multicultural Education for Peace (UNESCO-Associated School Network [ASP])
- International conference on Coexistence Challenges in a Multicultural Society, with the Arab Teachers' College in Haifa (November 2003)

Hundreds of delegates from NGOs, academic experts, government representatives and the public at large, as well as foreign experts and delegates participated in these events.

The DAKAR declaration was translated to Hebrew and disseminated to decision makers in the Ministry of Education. Israel focuses its EFA activities on issues of quality education.

Ad-hoc teams have been set up to address UNESCO-related issues: Human Rights and Democracy, Sustainable Development and the Arts. In the coming years, these teams will implement strategies developed and recommended by UNESCO.

Israel ASP network

The ASP network, headed by Dr. Yael Harel of Beit Berl Teachers' College, has been extremely active in the last two years. The network now operates according to a new organizational structure, which has enhanced its decision-making and follow-up capability on local projects dealing with coexistence and intercultural dialogue.

Hayovel School in Herzliya has organized TIMEUN – introducing decision-making processes according to the UN model. The conference was host to dozens of students from both Arab and Jewish schools. The Ben Zvi - Tira and Ramot - Kalansawa Schools implemented projects on coexistence. The Shaked School in Ra'anana celebrated Human Rights Day (December 10) through artistic activity. The Baka El-Gharbiya East Junior High School hosted Ms. Ayelet Shahak in a discussion on tolerance and terrorism.

The network's international activity included the participation of students from Makif High School in Rishon LeZion in an international summer camp in Germany, which also hosted students from Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Germany, Britain and Greece.

We were represented in the network's Jubilee meeting in New Zealand by Ms. Aviva Shulman of Hayovel School and Dr. Yael Harel, national coordinator.

Students from Hayovel School in Herzliya, together with dozens of other students, both local and foreign, attended education for citizenship programs organized by the Israel Democracy Institute. Ten more schools have joined the network (2003), and an attempt was made to involve special education schools.

Sponsorship of Education Events

Topic	Organization
Religious Wisdom	Elijah School, UNESCO Chair
UNESCO-Associated Schools Network (ASP)	Beit Berl College
Student exchanges – Israel-Poland	The Youth exchanges Council
Legal Counseling for Youth at Risk	Law School, Hebrew University
The 4th International Teachers' Training Conference	Achva College
Youth exchanges Israel-Britain-Germany	The Youth Exchanges Council
Developing mentoring project in Africa: Liberia, Gambia and Malawi	The Weizmann Institute – Perach Project
Multicultural Education for Peace	Beit Berl College (ASP)
Coexistence Challenges in Multicultural Society	The Arab Teachers' College

Lifelong Education for All

The Adult Education Division submitted a program of Hebrew and mathematics studies for immigrants from Ethiopia, which was cited by UNESCO for promoting literacy.

In accordance with the DAKAR Declaration, a report on Lifelong Education has been submitted by the Division and Association for Adult Education to the Bangkok CONFINTEA Conference (09/03).

Higher Education

The Council for Higher Education, directed by Professor Shlomo Grossman, has continued to grant Post-Doctoral fellowships for young researchers from least-developed countries in the following disciplines: mathematics, biology, medicine, engineering, electronics, ecology and biotechnology. In the last two years, 24 recipients – seven of whom are new researchers – have benefited from this program. We would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made to this project by the late Professor Nehemia Levzion, in his capacity as chairman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee.

Israel is represented by Professor Sarah Gury-Rosenblat of the Open University in the Higher Education for Research Forum.

The Education committee has collaborated with the International Bureau for Education (IBE) in supporting a study by Dr. Aaron Ben-Avot (Hebrew University) on the curriculum structure and agenda in UNESCO member states, as part of the follow-up on Education for All recommendations

The Commission Co-operation with Universities and Colleges

Institute	Subject	Representative
Hebrew University	Who is an Israeli? (June 2002)	Prof. Yirmiyahu Yovel –Spinoza Institute
	Science for Peace (November 2002)	Prof. Yekhiel Becker –UNESCO School of Microbiology
	Legal Counseling for Youth at Risk (October 2003)	Prof. Israel Gilead – Law School
	Jews in a Post-Soviet Society (July 2003)	Contemporary Jewish Studies Institute
Tel-Aviv University	The Digital Gap in Israel (December 2003)	Prof. Niv Ahituv –Business Administration School (IFA)
	Philosophy Day (October 2003)	Prof. Marcelo Dascal –Philosophy Department
	Sustainable Development (June 2003)	Dr. Yael Gavrieli – Nature Campus
	Biodiversity – Israel Action Plan (May 2002)	Prof. Tamar Dayan –Institute for Nature Preservation (MAB)
Ben-Gurion University	Water in the Middle East (September 2003)	Prof. Yoel Gat –Institute for Desert Research (IHP)
Haifa University	International Conference on Ethics and Medicine (February 2002)	Prof. Amnon Carmy, UNESCO chair on Bioethics
	Publication: Informed Consent	
Weizmann Institute	Nomination of Machteshim Country to World Heritage	Prof. Immanuel Mazor – Department of Environmental Sciences and Energy Research
	Publication of The Great Rift Valley report	
Beit Berl College	ASP –UNESCO-Associated Schools network	Dr. Yael Harel – School of Education
	International conference on Multicultural Education for Peace	
Achva College	International Teachers Conference(June 2002)	Ms. Yodfat Kirmeyer – School of Education
Haifa Arab Teachers' College	International conference on the Challenges in a Multicultural Society (November 2003)	Dr. Najib Nabuany – School of Education
Bar-Ilan University	Jewish Poetry and Arab Music (May 2003)	Dr. Meir Buzaglo, Misgav Institute, Hebrew University

SEMEP

During its early years, this project was implemented according to very specific plans. The schools carried out programs based on theoretical learning, using materials prepared by the UNESCO and distributed to the countries. At a later stage, several countries – including Israel – were asked to prepare their own materials. Consequently, a training manual was translated into English and distributed during the National Coordinators' Conference in Turkey. The main topic initially was the Mediterranean and its shores. Later, the focus moved to various water sources in each country, with a view to implementing as many environmental projects as possible;

In Israel, the project was implemented in high schools as part of the environmental sciences curriculum. The curriculum includes a relatively large section dealing with water as a resource, in addition to the ecosystems section, which also discusses the sea and global issues.

Since the matriculation exams require each student to conduct an “environmental study” – “ecotope,” we consider each school whose students study environmental sciences and specialize in water to be participants in SEMEP.

In April 2003, Turkey hosted a National Coordinators' Conference. Israel was represented by the teacher and coordinator of the international Globe project, Mr. Farid Hamdan. During the conference, Mr. Hamdan described the development of environmental sciences as part of the Israeli high school curriculum, including implementation of the SEMEP program.

Perach

One of Israel's leading projects in UNESCO is Perach (Hebrew acronym for “Mentoring Project”), headed by Mr. Amos Carmeli. In 2002, senior representatives from three African nations – Liberia, Gambia and Malawi – took part in a study trip to Israel and were introduced to the project. A follow-up mission to Africa was made possible by UNESCO to review the level of implementation in those countries. Information about Perach was distributed in French, English and Spanish to all UNESCO member states.

Culture for All

At the initiative of the Culture Administration Director, and Committee Chairman Adv. Micha Yinon, the Culture for All committee has lent its assistance to the following:

- Conference on Jewish Poetry and Andalus Tunes (Misgav Institute, Jerusalem)
- Production of a student film entitled Red Tape (Sam Spiegel Film School, Jerusalem)
- Support of the 9th International Caricature Festival (Haifa Municipality)
- Gateways to New Poetry (Halicon)

- Support for the Oud (Arabian lute) and Poetry Festival (Zionist Confederation House, Jerusalem)
- Sponsoring a Poetry Festival and Mediterranean Musical Workshops (Mishkenot Sha'ananim)

All of these events were open to the general public.

Sponsorship of Cultural Events

Theme	Organizer
Jewish Poetry in Andalus Tunes	Dahan Institute, Bar-Ilan Univ.; Misgav Institute, Hebrew Univ.
Red Tape	Sam Spiegel Film School
9th International Caricature Festival	Haifa Municipality
Gateway to New Hebrew-Arab Poetry	Halicon
Mediterranean Musical Workshops	Mishkenot Sha'ananim

Through the good offices of the UNESCO Intangible Heritage Division, the INCU has supported the establishment of a Jewish museum in Bukhara, Uzbekistan – part of its contribution to the preservation of intangible culture in communities around the world.

As part of UNESCO's intangible heritage activities, the Israel Embassy to UNESCO conducted two events: in October 2002, the 17th meeting of the World Hebrew Alliance, with the collaboration of Paris University and the participation of researchers from Israel, France, Russia, Morocco, the United States, Austria and Germany; in June 2002, UNESCO hosted an opening night for Ladino Week with Israeli artists. Several UNESCO sponsored concerts were held around the world during 2003 to commemorate the renowned pianist Arthur Rubinstein.

Israeli delegates have also participated in two interreligious dialogue events:

Activity	Date	Location	Establishment
Interreligious dialogue	September 2003	Rhodes, Aqaba, Eilat	Hebrew University
International Religions Conference	December 2002	Cambridge	Bar-Ilan University

In coordination with the Foreign Ministry, the Commission has also assisted in submitting Israeli candidates for UNESCO-sponsored competitions. Israel won first prize in the Children's Film Festival in Treviso, Italy. Also, the feminist journal Noga (Venus) won first prize in the Mediterranean Women's Short Story Competition, held in France.

Participation in International Competitions Sponsored by UNESCO

Competition/Prize	Delegates	Location	Date	Awards
Ciak Junior Children's Film Festival	Sherry Pojpur & Ilya Jacob, Yahad School, Beit Shemesh	Italy	June 2002 June 2003	Prizes for the films: Miri's Secret and Embryos
Amateur Photography	Leonard Pederol	Austria	November 2002	Outstanding Artist Award of the International Federation for Art in Photography
Film Students	Danny Rosenberg, Sam Spiegel Film School, Jerusalem	Israel	March 2003	\$15,000
Samarkand Festival of Intercultural Dialogue through Music	"Lama Lo" Band	Uzbekistan	August 2003	First prize for Roman Kachman and his band
Short Story Competition for Women in the Mediterranean Basin	Israeli women authors	France	November 2002	First prize for Noga journal
Computer Sciences	Jonathan Moshayov, "Leyada" High School, Jerusalem	United States	August 2003	Silver medal (\$30,000)
School Planning Competition	Architect Zvi Mopesko	Argentina	December 2003	Commendation for Atidim School, Or Akiva

Israeli delegates have taken part in these international events, and the Commission supported cultural projects jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the International Relations Division of the Ministry of Education.

Jointly sponsored by the Poetry Federation and UNESCO, the Zimriya Conference was held to celebrate its Jubilee (November 2002) in Tel-Aviv.

Science for All

The Science for All Committee, chaired by Professor Hagit Messer-Yaron, head of the Science Administration and Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Science has conducted the following activities:

- Conference on Water in the Middle East (Ben-Gurion University)
- Workshop on Biodiversity (MAB) (Tel-Aviv University)
- Counseling on planning a biospheric reserve in Ramot Menashe (JNF)
- Lecture on Open Areas (Institute for Nature Preservation, Tel-Aviv University)
- Super intendints' dialogue on Sustainable Development, an initiative of the Nature Campus (Tel-Aviv University)

Sponsorship of Scientific Events

Topic	Establishment
Water in the Middle East (September 2003)	Ben-Gurion University
Biospheric Preservation in Ramot Menashe (August 2003)	JNF/ Nature Preservation Institute, Tel-Aviv University
Biodiversity – Superintendents' Dialogue (July 2002)	Man and Biosphere Committee – Nature Campus, Tel-Aviv University
Open Areas Policy (July 2003)	Nature Preservation Institute, Tel-Aviv University

In line with UNESCO's program, relevant scientific activity in Israel relates to four areas: Oceanography (IOC), Man and Biosphere (MAB), the Hydrology Program (IIHP), and the Geology Program (IGCP).

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Dr. Yuval Cohen, chairman of the Israel Oceanographic Committee (IOC), represented Israel at the 22nd IOC General Assembly (June 2003) and in a conference on Marine Information and Data Exchange (March 2003), in Paris. Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute joined the global network of Marine Information Centers (IODE), run by UNESCO. The program of monitoring the Mediterranean sea level is sponsored by UNESCO (IOC) and the International Mediterranean Research Organization (CIESM).

Man and Biosphere (MAB)

The Man and Biosphere Committee, chaired by Professor Tamar Dayan, held a workshop on Biodiversity at Tel-Aviv University (June 2002). The keynote speaker, Professor Dan Simberloff, presented the USA case. Discussions that took place over the course of that day have helped shape a biodiversity action plan by the Ministry of the Environment.

In July 2003, Nature Campus at the Tel-Aviv University – directed by Dr. Yael Gavrieli – held a dialogue on Nature and the Environment together with the Ministry of Education's Pedagogic Secretariat. The workshop was designed for scientists and inspectors in the education system and aimed at encouraging dialogue about the ways in which nature and the environment can be integrated as a central axis in the following disciplines: science and technology, biology, life sciences and agriculture, environmental sciences, geography, Israel studies, chemistry, and earth sciences. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed their wish to continue with the initiative and promote the integration of this topic into school curricula.

Nature Campus, supported by the Ministry of the Environment and the Man and Biosphere Committee of the INCU, have produced a series of four posters on Biodiversity – “In the Mediterranean grove,” “In coastal rivers, On the beach, In dunes and gravel cliffs, and In the city.” The posters provide information and promote awareness of biodiversity, and have been distributed to schools and to UNESCO headquarters. During 2003, the committee also organized workshops for Bezalel art students, who used exhibits in the Tel-Aviv University Nature Museum as painting models.

In August 2003, Dr. Doris Pokorny from Germany and Dr. Robert Turner from the United States were hosted by the Israel MAB committee. They have studied tour the Mount Carmel Park – Israel's biospheric reserve – the Ramot Menashe Park and the Judea lowland area, where biospheric reserves are being planned. The visit culminated in a lecture sponsored by the Nature Preservation Institute at Tel-Aviv University, which included lectures by the guests and a closed workshop on biospheric reserves.

Ramot Menashe Park: This program is currently awaiting approval by the District Planning Committee. The Man and Biosphere Committee continues to follow the project, in view of the local communities' intention to inscribe turn the area into an official biospheric park.

Judea lowlands: The Israel Society for the Preservation of Nature has raised funds from the Sheli Foundation, which enabled it to initiate community activity in the Judea lowlands area in preparation for designating the lowlands as a biospheric reserve. For this purpose, a steering committee has been formed – “An Environmental Voice in the Judea Lowlands Area,” – with members of the Man and Biosphere Committee.

A proposal was recently submitted to the National Planning and Building Board by the planner Professor Eli Stern. It attracted much interest, and may well be taken into account in local planning considerations and discussed at the Planning Administration of the Ministry of the Interior.

During the year, we have received several requests for information about biospheric areas from the following regional councils: Arava South, Tamar and Upper Galilee. In the meantime, little or no progress has been made in these regions, but in view of the recommendation regarding the Great Rift Valley as a World Heritage Site, we may soon see progress in these efforts as well.

The committee has requested that Ms. Esther Lachman write a manual on the biosphere reserve in order to increase awareness of the issue among environmental organizations and planning bodies in Israel.

Hydrology (IHP)

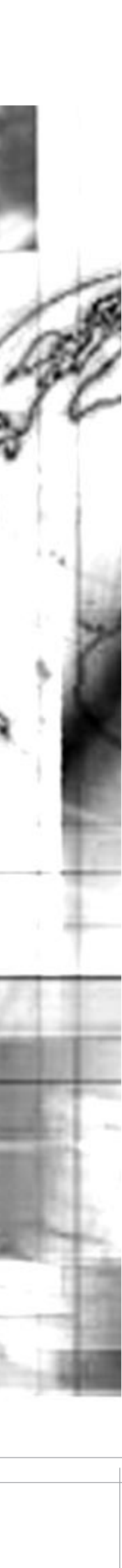
The Israel Hydrology Committee (IIHP), chaired by Professor Dan Ronen, promoted its activities with a lecture day on the topic of “Water for the Developing Middle East,” sponsored by the Institute for Negev Studies at Ben-Gurion University (September 2003), with the participation of the Israeli Water Association and experts from the Palestinian Authority.

The committee is currently involved in coordinating the activities between the Water Research Center, the Grand Institute (GWRI) at the Technion and the Zuckeberg Institute for Water Research at Ben-Gurion University.

Collaboration with the Water Institute in Delft, the Netherlands (IHE) has only just begun. The committee has proposed intensifying this collaboration, including granting research scholarships.

As part of the International Water Year events (2003), committee representatives took part in international conferences on Water and Arid Lands in Latin America (January and October 2003), and collaboration with South American countries is now being considered. The biannual, Post-Doctoral fellowships program initiated by the Council of Higher Education was dedicated to water research. A first-day compilation envelope was produced in honor of the International Water Year, and distributed to all members of the International Hydrology Program at UNESCO headquarters.

Several programs are currently underway: A Middle-East Water Museum; translating a Hebrew curriculum on the Blue Planet – the Water Cycle, Israel’s contribution to UNESCO for the Decade for Sustainable Education; and the committee chairman has submitted Israel’s position paper evaluating UNESCO’s Sixth International Water Program.



Geology (IGCP)

The International Union of Geosciences (IUGS) is an umbrella organization of geoscientists, with more than 250,000 members from 117 countries. The organization promotes extensive professional activities, including the 32nd International Geology Conference in Florence.

The International Geosciences Program (IGCP) is a collaborative enterprise between the IUGS and UNESCO, with a view to increasing international cooperation in researching parallel geoscientific issues with global or broad ramifications.

Experience shows that participation in IGCP projects may lead to the promotion of extensive projects financed by bodies such as the European Union and various UN organizations.

In Israel, these two organizations were mainly active on a personal basis, and through participation in specific projects and professional initiatives: updating regional tectonic maps and designing a seismo-tectonic map of the Rift area of the Dead Sea Transoform (Great Rift Valley). Israeli researchers are taking part in a joint venture by several international organizations – including the IUGS – focusing on drilling in lake bottoms, and which intend to drill deep into the Dead Sea. The drilling is meant to assist in reconstructing the limnological record of this body of water and analyzing the paleo-climatologic conditions in the region.

At the organization's request, several candidates from various disciplines have been suggested for membership on the scientific board. In late 2003, an Israeli representative was elected for the first time (membership period 2004-07). This may help increasing Israeli researchers' awareness and access to international projects and ventures.

An Israeli delegate joined the team of senior consultants for a joint venture by the IUGS and the IGCP, conceived in late 2003, to declare the years 2005-07 as Years of the Planet Earth, and to promote activities entitled "Earth Sciences for Society." The initiative will focus on the relevance of this field and to show that earth scientists are key players in our pursuit of sustainable development – adopted at the WSSD Johannesburg and also in a resolution by the Israeli government. The local scientific community has been asked to take part in implementing the resolution.

SESAME

Israel has been a member of the interim council of this joint Middle-East venture ever since its inception some five years ago. Our representatives are Professor Moshe Deutsch from the Bar-Ilan University (Chairman of the National Synchrotrone Radiation Committee), and Professor Eliezer Rabinowitz of the Hebrew University. The project is under the aegis of UNESCO, with the special encouragement of the Director General. This was particularly evident in April 2004, when he awarded the chairman

of the SESAME council with the UNESCO medal. The SESAME project is aimed at establishing a synchrotrone device and adjacent laboratories in the Middle East, to be used by scientists from all over the region and to promote fruitful scientific collaboration.

Israel has recently joined the International Council, and the INCU has financed the annual membership fee.

Science for Peace

Every two years, Professor Yekhiel Becker, Director of the UNESCO Microbiology School at the Hebrew University, conducts a conference on Science for Peace, together with UNESCO's regional office in Venice (November 2002).

Human and Social Sciences

At the initiative of the committee chairman, Professor Rami Friedman, first-day compilation envelopes were produced in honor of international days with social significance: Human Rights Day (December 10); Tolerance Day (November 16); Combating Violence Against Women Day (November 25); Woman's Day (March 8); Struggle Against AIDS Day (December 1); and International Child's Day (November 20). All mail sent via the central post office in Jerusalem were stamped with a special seal. In order to increase public awareness of these international days in Israel, the envelopes were distributed among ministers, members of Knesset (the Israeli Parliament), the UNESCO Director General and to ADGS and member states.

The following activities took place:

- A conference on Ethics and Medicine by the UNESCO Chair on Bioethics, Haifa University (January 2002)
- Anti-Terrorism Memorial by the Interreligious Center Association (September 11 2002)
- Youth exchanges with Germany and Britain by Israel Youth Change Council
- Conference on Jews in a Post-Soviet Society at the Institute for Contemporary Jewish Studies, Hebrew University (July 2003)
- Conference on: Who's An Israeli? by the Spinoza Institute (May 2002) Hebrew University.

In honor of Woman's Day, the Society and Welfare Division of the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics issued a press release with data and trends about the status of women in Israeli society.

The committee has responded to UNESCO's strategic document on human rights and to the document concerning human cloning legislation. At the suggestion of Professor Michel Revel of the Weizmann Institute, UNESCO's Human Genome Declaration was translated into Hebrew.

Assistant Director General of the Education Sector, Dr. Aicha Ba-Diallo, took part in an International Symposium on Women's Leadership for Education and Tolerance organized by the Carmel Center, Foreign Ministry (November 2003).

The Jewish-Arab Center in Givat Haviva organized an international conference in Nazareth, sponsored and financed by UNESCO (SHS), with dozens of delegates from Israel and abroad. This gathering was part of the global effort to promote peace in the region. (June 2003).

The Director of Carmel Center, Ms. Mazal Renford, represented Israel in the Mediterranean Forum of Women (Greece, October 2003). Dr. Sarah Ossetzky-Lazar from Givat Haviva participated in a conference on "Living Together" (Korea, December 2001).

The committee has also commissioned a Hebrew translation of the UNESCO Declaration for Future Generations, soon to be incorporated in its website.

Projects by the Civil Consent Forum were financed directly by UNESCO headquarters, as were the publication of a Hebrew-Arabic journal – Du-Et – and an international meeting on Leadership and Promoting Young Leaders.

Sponsored of Human and Social Events

Topic	Organization
Culture of Peace (June 2003)	Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, Givat Haviva
Jews in a Post-Soviet Society (February 2003)	Institute for Contemporary Judaism (Hebrew University)
Who's An Israeli? (June 2002)	Spinoza Institute (Hebrew University)
Anti-Terrorism Memorial (September 11 2002)	Israeli Interreligious Council
International Bioethics Conference (March 2002)	Bioethics Chair (Haifa University)

In November 2003, Professor Marcelo Dascal of Tel-Aviv University and Ms. Yael Cohen the Philosophy Superintendent held a national philosophy day for teachers and students on the topic of "Philosophy in Our Daily Lives." More than 500 students and teachers from all over the country attended lectures on "Practical Philosophy" (Professor Joseph Agassi), "The Emperor's New Clothes – a New Vantage Point" (Dr. Haggi Cna'an), and "Humanism from Theory into Practice" (Dr. Shai Frugl).

Information for All

A conference on the “Digital Gap” was held in Israel under the auspices of the Center for Internet Studies, Tel-Aviv University. Distinguished guests included Ms. Limor Livnat, Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, President of the INCU, Knesset members, representatives of the Computer Communication Administration and Dr. Esther Hargitai, a guest lecturer from Northwestern University. The conference was devoted to the social and educational implications of the digital gap in Israel.

Committee Chairman Professor Niv Ahituv participated in the World Summit for Information Society in Geneva (December 2003), together with Committee Coordinator, Ms. Karin Nahon-Barzilay. They presented the Israeli ICT system to a diverse audience.

During the report period, a representative from the Communications and Informatics Sector visited Israel, and received proposals for capacity building (training and coaching) for least-developed countries on language localization and programming, distance learning and policy development in the area of governance.

As part of the Culture for Peace program, the INCU suggested the integration of Israeli websites (the Interreligious Association, the UNESCO Chair for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, Alei Zayit Association) which contribute to intercultural cooperation and dialogue on a culture of peace.

In addition, the Information for All Committee has submitted position papers regarding the following UNESCO documents: Digital Heritage Charter; Promoting Accessibility to Information by the Public; Universal Access to Cyberspace. The Committee Chairman’s paper on Information Society has been integrated in the IFA portal.

World Heritage

At the initiative of Professor Michael Turner, Chairman of Israel World Heritage Committee, Acre and Masada were ceremoniously inscribed as World Heritage Sites. In July 2003, the White City of Tel-Aviv was also inscribed as a World Heritage Site. The following activities took place:

- International conference on Historic Acre as a Living Town, the Company for the Development of Acre (July 2003)
- Workshop on the Preservation of Apollonia, Antiquities Authority (August 2003)
- International Monument Day, the Council for Site Preservation – ICOMOS Israel (April 2003)
- Workshop on Management of Archeological Sites, ICOMOS Int’l/Israel (February 2002)

- Submitting nominations to World Heritage Center: Incense Route and the Biblical Tels
- Experts meeting on the Great Rift Valley (October 2002)

Name of Site	Dates	Evaluated by
Masada	March 2001/November 2002	Prof. Henry Clear
Machteshim Country	March 2001	Dr. Paul Dingwill
Old City of Acre	March 2001/May 2002	Prof. Henry Clear
White City of Tel-Aviv	July 2002/July 2003	Prof. Natalia Dushkina
Incense Route	August 2003	Arch. Carla Morano

Israeli activity and involvement in UNESCO's advisory bodies has been intensive, especially vis-à-vis ICOMOS Israel, and primarily in processes of evaluating potential World Heritage Sites (Masada, Acre, Tel-Aviv, Incense Route). Eng. Jacob Sheffer, Director of Preservation in the Antiquities Authority, and Mr. Avi Shoket, Chairman of the Historic Routes Committee, participated in the organization's General Assembly (Madrid, October 2002). Adv. Gideon Koren, chairman of ICOMOS Israel, took part in the following Assembly (Zimbabwe, October 2003).

A workshop of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Preservation of Buildings and Construction Engineering was held, attended by guest experts from Britain, Turkey, Mexico and Italy was sponsored by the Antiquities Authority, ICOMOS-Israel and the Israel Commission. The topic was ancient construction technologies (December 2003).

Eng. Jacob Sheffer attended the General Assembly of ICCROM (November 2002). Ms. Lilach Struhl from the Antiquities Authority received a scholarship and participated in a preservation course, held in Rome (September 2003).

Sponsorship of World Heritage Events

Subject	Organization
Policy paper: The Routes of Jesus and the Apostles	Antiquity Authority and Ministry of Tourism
Historic Acre as a Living Town	Company for the Development of Acre
Celebration of Masada as a World Heritage Site	Nature and Parks Authority
Celebration of Acre as a World Heritage Site	Company for the Development of Acre
Apolonia Workshop	Antiquity Authority
International Monument Day	ICOMOS-Israel and Council for Site Preservation
Great Rift Valley	Israel National Commission

The Committee Chairman took part in the World Heritage General Assembly in Paris (October 2003) and in all of the World Heritage Committee sessions that were held during 2002-03.

The meeting of the Great Rift Valley Experts was a highlight of the committee's activity. This took place in October 2002 with delegates from UNESCO, World Heritage Center, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, ICOMOS International, the World Bank, the UN Organization for Environmental Development (UNEP) and Israeli and foreign experts in archaeology, ecology and history. The experts' recommendations were presented to the World Heritage Center staffs.

At the committee's recommendation, architect Tal Eyal received a UNESCO scholarship (2002-03) for training in urban preservation designs in Spain.

The Israel World Heritage Committee nominated five sites in 2002-3: The White City – Tel-Aviv Municipality; Incense Route – Nature and Parks Authority; Water Systems in the Biblical Tel – Nature and Parks Authority; Tel Dan – Archaeological Institute of the Hebrew Union College; Beit She'an – State Tourism Company.

The tentative list was expanded to include Beit She'arim and the Incense Route; the latter was shifted from the multi-country sites category to the local site category. In March 2002, the committee decided that the candidacy of Tel-Aviv's White City would be its first priority for 2002. Professor Natalia Dushkina conducted the evaluation on behalf of ICOMOS International (July 2002). One year later, at the World Heritage Committee session in Paris, Tel-Aviv's White City was inscribed as a World Heritage Site.

In December 2002, the Israel World Heritage Committee decided that the "Incense Route and Cities in the Negev" will be submitted as its 2003 priority. An amended nomination was submitted for 2004: Water Systems in the Biblical Tels of Armageddon (Megido), Beer-Sheba and Hatzor.

In July 2003, Ms. Carla Morano, on behalf of ICOMOS International, evaluated the nomination of Incense Route. Based on her recommendation, the site was defined as a "cultural landscape." In June 2004, China, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has decided to defer the nomination to the state party.

Over the past two years, dozens of press articles and interviews in the media have discussed and debated about World Heritage Sites – Acre, Masada, and the White City. Articles appeared in: National Geographic (October 2002); the World Heritage Journal – Acre (November 2002); Environment (December 2002); Ariel (August 2003); and Perspective (January 2002).

The INCU Secretariat operates an open, walk-in library on World Heritage publications of UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, and also of its member organizations.

UNESCO World Heritage Conference celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Nature and Cultural Heritage Convention 1972 in Venice, and the Israel Commission organized events to promote the Convention's objectives.

30th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention

Activity	Dates	Sponsors
Old Acre inscription ceremony	May 20-21, 2002	Israeli UNESCO Commission / Company for Development of Acre / Acre Municipality
Experts' meeting: Manual for Archaeological Site Management	February 4-7, 2002	Israeli / ICOMOS Israel/International
Workshop on Planning and Preserving Heritage Sites	February 8-14, 2002	Israeli Commission/ Bezalel Academy
International Monument Day– 20th Century Heritage	April 30, 2002	Council for Site Preservation / ICOMOS-Israel
Mediterranean Cultures and World Heritage	June 21, 2002	Mishkenot Sha'ananim / Bezalel Academy
Experts' Meeting on the Great Rift Valley	September 30- October 4, 2002	Israeli Commission/ Heritage Committee
Masada inscription ceremony	October 31, 2002	Nature and National Parks Authority / Israel Commission

Monitoring and follow-up teams were established for each of the three approved World Heritage Sites: Acre - Antiquities Authority, Acre Municipality and the Company for the Development of Acre; Masada - Nature and Parks Authority; White City - Tel-Aviv Municipality. The Nature and Parks Authority as well as the Jewish National Fund have formed senior teams for monitoring all its World Heritage Sites on the tentative list.

The committee has expanded and now includes some 35 members. Many professional associations seek representation. Consequently, it was decided that the committee's activities would be based on think tanks structure. To that end, eight think tanks have been established on the following issues: National Register Index (global, national and local levels); Cultural Landscapes, Modern Heritage; Review of the Tentative List; Monitoring and Follow-up; the Great Rift Valley, Education, and Israel Heritage Center.

Over the course of the past year, the following candidacies have been submitted to the IWHC: Hula valley; the Journey of Jesus and the Apostles; and the Bahai Centers. The nomination of Tel Dan and Beit She'an has already been submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Center.³

3. Visibility of UNESCO in Israel

Capacity Building

One of Israel's contributions is capacity building in UNESCO fields of interest that are especially relevant to member states.

- Dental Medicine School at the Hadassah Hospital, Hebrew University Jerusalem – four Palestinian dentists completed their residencies
- Dozens of experts and government officials from Africa and Latin America undertook advanced studies in Mashav centers
- The Galilee College hosted trainees in higher education management and NGO management

In this biannum UNESCO - Mashav program, forty students have participated in courses on tourism, biotechnology and agriculture, media, education and technology. The courses were conducted in English, French and Spanish. The reduced number of participants is due to the extreme budget cuts made by UNESCO.

Missions

As part of UNESCO's Director General program for Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Middle East, four missions have taken place.

Deputy Director General (Marcio Barbosa), Assistant ADG, Foreign Relations (Vivianne Launney), Director of Communication / Free Press (Klaus Schmitter), and Director of the Quality Education Division (Mary Joy Pigozzi). As a result of these visits, Israeli projects were allocated \$237,000

Name	Position	Dates	Topic
Viviane Launay	Assistant, Foreign Contacts	September and December 2002	Reconciliation
Macrio Barbosa	Deputy Director General	December 2002	Reconciliation
Klaus Schmitter	Director of Freedom of the Press Section	September 2002/3	Free Press
Mary Joy Pigozzi	Division Director, Quality Education	December 2002	Education for All

From a professional point of view, UNESCO staff have continued to visit Israel.

Visits to Israel by UNESCO Headquarters Staff

Name	Position	Dates	Topic
Kim Yang Yong	Communications Sector	June 2002	Implementation of ICT
Prof. Irving Schaffer	SESAME	November 2002	Israel National Science Academy
Aicha Bah-Diallo	Assistant Director General, Education	November 2003	Women's Leadership Conference, Carmel Center
Francesco Bandarin	Director of World Heritage Center	October 2002	Great Rift Valley Experts' Meeting
Mechtild Rossler	Europe Chief, World Heritage Center	October 2002	Meeting of Great Rift Valley Experts
Tomas Fajrdi	Chairman, World Heritage Committee	November 2002	Masada celebration

Conversely, the Commission has encouraged visits by Israeli experts to UNESCO headquarters in order to learn and develop new contacts, reinforce old ones, and acquaint the Secretariat with Israeli programs and organizations.

Visits of Israel Experts to UNESCO Headquarters

Visitor / Organization	Date
Prof. Joseph Shetreet, Vice Rector, Haifa University	January 2003
Prof. Harv Bercovier, Vice President, Research, Hebrew University	September 2003
Dr. Yossi Sheval, President, Galilee College	November 2002
Mr. Yitzhak Brenner, Chairman of the Israeli Museum Association – ICOM	June 2003
Prof. Avner Venshok, Chief of the Desert Research Institutes, Ben-Gurion University	April 2003
Mr. Amos Carmeli, Director General, Perach, Weizmann Institute	January 2003
Prof. Jacob Bar-Simantov, Head of the Davis Institute, Hebrew University	January 2003
Ms. Mazal Renford, Director of Carmel Center	December 2002
Prof. Amnon Carmi, UNESCO Chair of Bioethics, Haifa University	January 2002 October 2003
Prof. Yekhiel Becker, the UNESCO Chair of Science for Peace	December 2002 (Venice)
Prof. Avi Shapiro, Geological Institute	November 2003
Dr. Zehavit Gross, Bar-Ilan University	September 2003
Dr. Zvi Zuk, Chief Archaeologist, Nature and National Parks Authority	November 2003
Mr. Dan Bitan, Krav Foundation (IPSO)	June 2003

Unesco Chairs

In recent years, UNESCO Chairs have been exceptionally active, hosting international conferences on Democracy, Human Rights (Bar-Ilan University), Interreligious Dialogue (Eliyahu School), Science for Peace (Hebrew University) and Bioethics (Haifa University). Some Chairpersons participated in Chair's meetings in Europe. Three additional Chairs are currently awaiting approval by UNESCO headquarters: Bezalel Academy, the Kibbutzim Seminar and Beit Berl College.

UNESCO Chairs have also been actively involved in the Commission's activity in Israel: Beit Berl College has been operating the UNESCO-Associated School Network (ASP), Haifa University has been involved in bioethics, and Bar-Ilan University in tolerance and democracy.

Israel UNESCO Chair Conferences

Chair	Establishment	Topic	Dates	Location
Bioethics	Haifa University	Ethics in Medicine	February 2002	Eilat
Democracy, Tolerance and Human Rights	Bar-Ilan University	Education and Ideology in Times of Change	May 2003	Ramat-Gan
Science for Peace Convention	Hebrew University	Water for Peace	November 2002	Jerusalem
Culture of Peace	Bar-Ilan University	Educating for a Culture of Peace	December 2003	Ramat-Gan
Intercultural / Interreligious Dialogue	Haifa University	From Past to Future	May 2003	Spain

Participation of Chairpersons in UNESCO Meetings

Topic	Location	Dates	Chairperson
Democracy, Tolerance and Human Rights	Austria	April 2002	Prof. Jacob Iram, Bar-Ilan University
Chairs for Interreligious Dialogue	France	May 2003	Dr. Alon Goshen, Eliyahu School Chair for Religious Philosophy
Democracy, Tolerance and Human Rights	France	November 2002	Prof. Aviva Doron, Prof. George Kanj, Haifa University; Prof. Jacob Iram, Bar-Ilan University

One of the most interesting projects involving the UNESCO Chair for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue at Haifa University was “Peace on Wheels” in Eilat and Aqaba (September 2003).

Participation Program

UNESCO’s activity in Israel is manifested in its participation program. During the last two years, \$100,000 were allocated for participation programs in each of UNESCO’s fields of interest. An additional expression of UNESCO’s visibility in the country was sponsorship of participation programs not financed by UNESCO headquarters (use of the Israel logo and name).

UNESCO Participation in Israel Program

UNESCO Project No.	Project Name	Institution	UNESCO Financing (\$)	Responsibility
ISR001	Educating for a Culture of Peace	Bar-Ilan University	25,000	Prof. Jacob Iram
ISR002	Training Instructors in Biodiversity	Nature Campus, Tel-Aviv University	15,000	Dr. Yael Gavrieli
ISR003	Arab-Jewish Youth Orchestra	Musical Youth Association	20,000	Dr. Meir Weisel
ISR004	Foreign Workers’ Rights	Line for the Worker	20,000	Dr. Roy Wagner
ISR005	Website for Peace	Man, Nature and Landscape Association	10,000	Ms. Ella Jungman
ISR006	Days of Oud and Piyut	Confederation House	10,000	Mr. Effi Bnayah

Scholarships and Awards

Each year, Israel receives one UNESCO scholarship in order to promote an activity with special relevance for the NGO. In 2003, for the first time, we also won the L’Oréal Scholarship for young women scientists.

Beneficiary	Topic	Institution	(\$)	Location	Benefactor
Tal Eyal	Preservation of Modern Heritage	Tel-Aviv Municipality, Preservation Dept.	9,000	Madrid	UNESCO
Victoria Yavlevsky	Ovarian Cancer Research	Ben-Gurion University	20,000	Moscow	L'Oréal
Lilach Struhl	Preservation	Antiquity Authority	1,200	Rome	ICCROM

UNESCO headquarters has awarded two prizes to Israelis: the UNESCO Peace Education Prize to Father Emile Shufani for recently organizing the first coexistence Arab-Jewish visit to Auschwitz; and the G. Cano Free Press Award, to Amira Hess, a journalist from Haaretz daily newspaper. In both cases, the candidacies were submitted by unaffiliated organizations, in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

Beneficiary	Award	Date	(\$)
Father Emile Shufani	Peace Education	September 2003	30,000
Amira Hess (Journalist)	Guillermo Kano Free Press	March 2003	25,000

Desimination of Information

The Commission disseminates all UNESCO publications to high-ranking officials and decision-makers in government ministries and bureaus (Education, Culture, Environment, Infrastructure, Statistics and Tourism). The Commission has also sent publications to the National Library, to departments of education, art and science at the Hebrew University, and various NGOs.

The following publications have been distributed in Israel:

Career counseling manual for in universities and colleges, ICE-46 report, On Preventing Intercultural Conflict, On Gender Equality in Elementary Education, How Children Learn, On Using Gender-neutral Language, Jacques Delore's Learning: the Inner Treasure, translated into Hebrew and Arabic by the Commission and distributed throughout Israel's secondary education system, UNESCO Director General's Speeches on International Days (Human Rights, Tolerance Women), and UNESCO Tolerance Principles, which has been translated to Hebrew and will appear on the Commission's website.

Similarly, numerous Israeli publications/translations have been distributed to UNESCO headquarters and member states:

Children's Rights Handbook (Arabic and English); Learning: The Treasure Within, (Arabic and Hebrew); The Alexandria Declaration on Interreligious Dialogue (Hebrew, Arabic and English); Report on the Israeli Commission's Activity for the Years 2000-01; Report on Activities by the UNESCO-Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), 2000-01; At Eye Level (Israel Association of Community Centers); Perach mentoring project; Informed Consent (UNESCO Bioethics Chair); Adult Education; Facts and Figures, 2001 (Education in Israel).

Academic publications in UNESCO press: Dr. Zehavit Gross of Bar-Ilan University published an article on the State Religious Education System (Prospect, June 2003); Dr. Yinon Shankar co-edited the journal on Educating for Aids Prevention (Prospect, June 2002); the late Professor Daniel Elazar published an article on "Cultural Diversity and Federalism" in the Social Sciences Journal (March 2001).

Drawings by children from the Gan Yotam kindergarten in Lod have been included in UNESCO's book, Tomorrow's World – Paint Me Peace.

Relations with Member States

The Israeli Commission maintains relations with member states, and has hosted delegations from France and China. Beyond the daily activity vis-à-vis UNESCO headquarters in France, the Commission has been forging and reinforcing ties with member states and organizations in Europe (Education – the Council of Europe, Heritage – ICCROM and ICOMOS).

Visits of Delegations from UNESCO Member States

Country	Hosts	Topic	Date
France	Antiquities Authority / ICOMOS-Israel	Crusader Fortresses	November 2003
China	Israeli Commission	World Heritage	December 2003

Korea Dr. Baruch Levi from Galilee College has met the Secretary General, Mr. Kim Yersu, in order to involve universities in human-resources development training in Higher Education. Perach Director General, Mr. Amos Carmeli, has met senior officials

from the Korean Ministry of Education in order to take part in the project. In July 2002, the Israeli delegate, Ms. Mikky Konseca Reis, was a guest at the International Summer Youth Camp in Seoul.

France At the request of the French Secretary General, a detailed paper was prepared on Arabic and Islamic studies in Israel. A delegation of archaeologists visited Israel and investigated the local crusader fortresses (September 2003).

Poland Student exchanges through the Forum for International Dialogue between Israel and Germany (March 2002) and Britain (March 2003), with support from the Youth Exchanges Council. The Israeli UNESCO Commission also assists the Polish Commission in the process of preparing a management plan on Auschwitz.

Germany The Rabin Center has submitted a study on “Views of Israeli and Palestinian Teenagers – between Conflict and Coexistence.” The study was financed by the German Foundation.[which foundation?] The German Commission has also assisted in financing a delegation of Israeli students to attend an international summer camp in Germany.

Indirect contacts are maintained between UNESCO-Associated Schools in Israel and the Palestinian Authority through joint participation in summer camps in Europe. The Commission maintains an extensive network of contacts with UNESCO subsidiaries and associated organizations in Europe.

Organization		Area of Interest	Location
UNESCO	IBE	International Bureau of Education	Geneva
	IIEP	International Institute of Educational Planning	Paris
	UIE	Adult Education	Hamburg
	UIS	Statistics	Montreal
ICCROM		Preservation and Training	Rome
ICOMOS		Preservation of Monuments	Paris
IMC		Music	
ICOM		Museums	
IAU		International Universities Organization	
CEPES		Higher Education in Europe	Bucharest
European Council		Education	Strasbourg



The support and assistance of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, through its division directors, constitute the strong basis for the Commission's activity.

The Pedagogic Secretariat, chaired by Professor Jacob Katz, has made it possible for us to continue forming teams in UNESCO-relevant areas: human rights and democracy, curricula and sustainable development. The Economy and Budgets Administration, headed by Assistant Director General, Mr. Eddie Hershkowitz and his staff have been a catalyst for Commission activities through its unabated assistance in securing funds for programs and projects. The various government authorities and NGOs represented in the Commission's committees have helped to publicize and implement Commission projects: Antiquities Authority, Nature and Parks Authority, National Tourism Company; Council for Site Preservation and the Jewish National Fund (JNF).

Government ministries, including Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology, Environment, Health, and Infrastructure have shown an extraordinary willingness to lend their assistance, support, and cooperation to promote UNESCO objectives in Israel.