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Ministry of Education

UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet) in Israel

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UNESCO
Associated Schools Project

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In The Memory of Dr. David Harari

Elizabeth Khawajkie	4
Traugott Schofthaler	6
Yair Levin	8
Yael Harel	8

Israel ASP Activities

Beit Berl College Report – Yael Harel	10
The Peace Cruise – Esther Lucas	11
Makif Het High School – Netta Zelinger	14
Baqa Junior High School – Horeia Gazmawy	15
Ben Zvi Junior High School – Carmela Goldglass	17
Tira Junior High School – Gazi Iraqi	19
Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam Primary School – Bob Mark	20
The Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, Givat Haviva	21
The Multicultural Educational Resource Center, Gordon College – Rhonda Sofer	23

International Activities

Israeli Delegation at Saarbrucken Youth Camp - Germany – Tami Cohen	26
Third Joint ASPnet Teachers-Students Seminar, Beit Jala – Yael Harel	28
“Learning to Live Together” – Yael Harel / Michael Nader	30
Report on Lisbon/Toledo – Yael Harel	31
Berlin International Seminar for Students from Associated Schools – Shira Granot	33

Prizes and Awards

1998 Outstanding National ASPnet Coordinator	36
Ulpan Akiva, International Languages Study Center	37

Annex

ASPnet schools	40
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In Memory of Dr. David Harari

Secretary General Israel National Commission for UNESCO 1995-1999

Elizabeth Khawajkie

International Coordinator, UNESCO

Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet),

UNESCO, Paris

We convened here today to pay tribute to the late Dr. David Harari. Secretary-General of the Israel National Commission for UNESCO. Although I am very sad that he is no longer with us, a legacy which not only do we cherish but which we will do everything possible to pursue.

I can still remember him walking into my office for the first time in 1995. He had just been appointed Secretary-General and wanted a briefing on the Associated Schools Project Network, most often referred to as ASPnet. He was of course quick to grasp what it was all about and had ideas on how to develop the Network. I could tell immediately that he had a sharp and open mind. vast experience, much

expertise, a sense of humour and a man of his word.

During the short time that he served as Secretary-General, much was accomplished. He extended ASPnet, convened a major ASPnet European Seminar in Israel, took part in two Israeli/German/Palestinian Workshops. He encouraged and supported our much appreciated ASPnet National Co-ordinator, Dr. Yael Harel. Several times Dr. Harari had spoken to me about his plans to organize a Conference on education and philosophy and I am pleased to learn that one will be held as planned in Jerusalem this year.

UNESCO is like a family and Dr. Harari was an integral part of it. As our Director-General, Mr. Federico Mayor said in his personal tribute "Dr. Harari was both a scholar and a gentleman, he genuinely believed in the goodness of humankind and was an untiring promoter of UNESCO ideals" He believed in UNESCO, in its Constitution which declares and I quote "a peace based

exclusively upon the political and economic arrangement of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the World, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it were not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind".

Today we pay tribute to Dr. David Harari who had so much to give and gave so willingly in order to forge the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.

Dr. David Harari was forward looking, he had acquired much wisdom from past experiences. He was a pioneer, in his own time but he was also a man of the future and that is probably why he was so keen on the project. "An Ideal Village for the Third Millennium.

On behalf of UNESCO, I present our deepest sympathy to Madame Harari, who is with us and to their entire family, friends and colleagues.

A Tribute to David Harari

*Dr. David Harari
On a safari,
In search of peace
For war to cease.
In quest of tolerance
To end all violence.*

*Dr. David Harari
A man of ideas,
A man of action,
Who always gave us satisfaction.*

*He believed in UNESCO
In our Constitution
And steadily served our Organisation.*

*He supported ASPnet
And his mind was set
To continue to extend the net.*

*His eyes were bright,
He gave us hope and light.
He was a philosopher,
An economist,
But above all a humanist.*

*Dr. David Harari
May he be at rest,
He was one of the best.*

*In his memory we will try
To strive
To carry out
What he commenced
In search of peace
For war to cease.*

by *Elizabeth Khawajkie*

Dr. Traugott Schofthaler

*Secretary-General, German Commission for UNESCO,
Bonn, Germany*

Poverty, unemployment, hunger, ignorance, disease, squalor and exclusion are unmitigated evils. They are reinforced by cultural habits that lead to narrow selfishness, prejudice and ill-advised hatred. These are the obstacles and inhibitions in the path forward. On the far side, however, and to the extent that we balance information and knowledge with wisdom, rights with duties, and ends with means, what awaits us is nothing less than a New Renaissance – a new, creative vision of a better world.”

It was during a hot summer night, in 1997, in Givat Haviva when I had the opportunity to discuss with my Israeli colleague and friend David Harari about this message, formulated by former United Nations

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in his introduction to “Our Creative Diversity”, the Report by the World Commission on Culture and Development. We agreed that the vision of a “New Renaissance”, first developed some years ago by the Hungarian philosopher Agnes Huller could serve as a guideline for our joint endeavour to translate UNESCO’s ideals of international understanding, co-operation and peace, into reality for Israeli, Palestinian and German youth and their parents and teachers. Together with our Palestinian colleague, Jihad Qarshouli, we committed ourselves to concrete action at the level of National Commissions for UNESCO. The tripartite Givat Haviva teachers and students seminar was the beginning of a series of innovative joint action, attracting others to participate or to adapt to their own local and regional needs and aspirations. During this hot summer night, David Harari shared with me his secret love affair that philosophy

should open doors to rediscover the truly humanistic concept of an all-round personality. The individual actor, fully aware of the wealth and diversity of cultural heritage and contemporary thought, rather than 19th century concepts of introducing the young generation into their “national cultures” should be the horizon for education. It was in this spirit that both of us sat together in formulating a draft resolution for UNESCO’s General Conference which was finally adopted by 186 governments. This Resolution will yield its first results during a UNESCO Conference on “Moral Philosophy in Education: The Challenges of Human Difference”, to be organized by the Spinoza Institute in Jerusalem. This event is the late David Harari’s baby, and therefore I would like to recall the idea, reflected in many religious traditions, of sharing important events with those who passed away. Being the last of David Harari’s colleagues who spoke to him, the evening before his death, I feel highly

committed to keep his heritage alive, including his philosophia, his love of wisdom, literally translated from Greek.

I know from many talks with David Harari that he considered the triangular German-Israeli-Palestinian UNESCO co-operation a result of personal friendship, based on confidence building during common work in progress. David, the Israeli with his Moroccan background, Jihad, the Palestinian who was born in Tiberias, and Traugott, the German with French and Austrian roots – we were privileged enough to face contemporary dangers of excessive nationalist thinking. David Harari, without making big waves, set an example through deliberately mixing the composition of Israeli groups, participating in our joint meetings, with Israeli Arabs and Jews inviting the German and Palestinian groups to share their spirit of dialogue and exchange

It was not always easy for David Harari to make his personal

commitment to direct people-to-people contacts understood in a climate of heated debates and resurging prejudices. Sometimes, his attitude was misunderstood as if he would like to escape addressing political disputes.

David Harari was an optimist by profession, nourished by his personal search for inspiration from his philosophical studies of unconventional thought, for example in the medieval Kabbalah. It was in Nuremberg, the German city now committed, fully aware of its past, to the sake of human rights, where David Harari explained to the participants of the German-Israeli-Palestinian UNESCO Seminar in 1998 his way of thinking as follows:

“We must be optimistic, because the world belongs to the optimists... Violence has to vanish not only in fact but also in speech and writing. Human beings need peace urgently before it will be too late. It is imperative for the good of all humankind.

Yair Levin

*Deputy Director General for International Relations
and UNESCO, Ministry of Education*

Today statement marks one month since the death of Dr. David Harari, Secretary General of the Israeli National Commission to UNESCO. Upon his untimely passing, he was warmly remembered by his coworkers and international colleagues for his compassion, wisdom, honesty and humble manners. Words indeed failed to sum up this caring, hard working and effective individual.

Dr. Harari, in his official UNESCO capacity, devoted his energies towards furthering the scientific and cultural future of Israel's youth. He made extensive efforts to promote coexistence and mutual understanding between Israeli youth and its Arab neighbors – and he did this based on a deep belief that this was

one of Israel's most important objectives.

Since assuming his duties in 1995, Dr. Harari was guided by a personal vision, patriotism and outstanding sense of mission. He worked with a fervent passion to create a better world than the one in which he entered. Hopefully, the world he left and so inspired will have the drive and foresight to be somewhat kinder, more humane, and follow the example he left us as his legacy.

Dr. Yael Harel

*National Coordinator
of ASPnet in Israel*

David was the kind of man who soared high into philosophical dimensions, but also took care of every minute detail. He did not like leaving anything to chance. He was deeply moved by what he saw in Ben-Zvi school where 25 villages took part in a big festival. Then he came to Makif Het in Rishon Le'Zion and enjoyed the realization of his idea by a number of Group Investigation teams who had consulted lawyers, architects, urban planners and other professional resource persons.

Unfortunately, David could not be with me in Al'Najah, Taiba to see the excitement, the inspiration and the creativity! After David passed away so suddenly, we decided to continue the project and organized the finale event in his memory.