



הוועד הישראלי לאונסקו

ISRAEL NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

اللجنة الإسرائيلية لليونسكو

ACTIVITY REPORT

ISRAEL NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

2010–2011





November 2012

Written and edited by: Daniel Bar-Elli, Secretary General,
Israel National Commission for UNESCO

Typing: Hedva Amar, Israel National Commission for UNESCO

Graphic design: Vered Bitan Studio

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1. General

- Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, visited Israel and met with the President of Israel and the ministers of Education, Science and Culture. She was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Haifa. She also participated in the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center's 50th Jubilee Conference in Haifa (May 2011).
- There has been an improvement in the allocation of membership dues to UNESCO, and no debt has accrued to the organization. The Commission received an additional sum for its ongoing activity in promoting world heritage.
- **Two new professional committees have been established.**
 - **Memory of the World Committee** – headed by Prof. Elhanan Adler, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
 - **Ethics of Science and Technology Committee** – headed by Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron, President of the Open University.
- Ms. Hedva Amar, Senior Coordinator (Budgeting), received the Ministry of Education's excellent employee award.

Changes in the Commission membership

- Ms. Lea Rosenberg replaced Mr. Gad Abecassis as the International Relations and UNESCO representative.
- Ms. Michal Cohen replaced Ms. Lea Rosenberg as representative of the Pedagogic Administration.
- Dr. Gavriel Avital, Chief Scientist, left his position, and Prof. Zecharia Madar was appointed in his place.
- Adv. Gideon Koren, President of ICOMOS Israel, who represented an international organization on the board, was replaced by Mr. Alan Schneider, Director of the B'nai Brith World Center in Israel.
- Dr. Zvi Zameret, Chairperson of the Education Committee, left his position, and no one has yet been appointed in his place.
- Mr. Daniel Bar-Elli retired from his position as Secretary General to the Israel National Commission for UNESCO.

Changes in the members of UNESCO Committees

- Prof. David Mendelovitch, Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Science and Technology and Chairperson of the Science Committee, left his position, and Prof. Daniel Weihs from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, was appointed in his place.
- Mr. Zach Granit, Director of the Culture Administration at the Ministry of Culture and Sport, and Chairperson of the Culture Committee, retired from his position as Chairperson of the Culture Committee, and Mr. Shimon Alkabetz was appointed in his place.
- Prof. Mike Turner, from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and Chairperson of Israel World Heritage Committee, was replaced by architect Arie Rahamimov.
- Prof. Niv Ahituv, from Tel Aviv University, Chairperson of the Information for All Committee, was replaced by Prof. Roni Aviram from Ben-Gurion University.
- Prof. Avraham (Rami) Friedman, from the Center for Academic Studies and Chairperson of the Social and Human Sciences (MOST) Committee, was not replaced yet.

Changes in the holders of UNESCO Chairs

- Prof. Avigad Vonshak, holder of the UNESCO Chair on Combating Desertification at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, has ended his tenure and Prof. Pedro Berliner has been appointed in his place.
- Dr. Yael Harel, holder of the Chair on Education for Peace in a Multicultural Society at Beit Berl College, has retired, and Dr. Ruwaida Aburass was appointed in her place.
- **The members of the Israel Delegation to UNESCO's 36th General Conference (25 October 2011 – 10 November 2011)**
 - Mr. Gideon Sa'ar, Minister of Education and President of the Israel National Commission for UNESCO.
 - Mr. Nimrod Barkan, Israeli Ambassador to UNESCO.
 - Mr. Rafael Gamzu ; Director, Division for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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- Mr. Ron Adam, Director of International Organizations Department 1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - Prof. Aharon Aviram, Chairperson of the Information for All Committee.
 - Ms. Nili Cohen, Deputy Director of Culture Administration, Ministry of Culture and Sport.
 - Ms. Lital Apter, Spokesperson for Minister of Education.
 - Ms. Maya Katz, Advisor to the Minister of Education.
 - Ms. Michal Pelosof, Israel Ambassde to UNESCO.
 - Mr. Daniel Bar-Elli, Secretary General, Israel Commission for UNESCO.
 - **Delegate to the General Assembly of the Convention of World Heritage (7 November 2011 – 9 November 2011)**
 - Architect Arie Rahamimov, Chairperson of Israel World Heritage Committee.
 - **Delegate to the Youth Conference (17 November 2011 – 20 November 2011).**
 - Mr. Alon Meidan, National Union of Israeli Students.

2. Committees activities

A. Education

Chairperson of the Committee: Dr. Zvi Zameret, Chairperson of the Pedagogic Secretariat, Ministry of Education.

Holocaust Memorial Day

- Minister of Education, Mr. Gideon Sa'ar, represented Israel at the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony which took place on the 27 January 2011 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Ms. Limor Livnat, Minister of Culture and Sport, represented Israel at the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony which took place on the 27 January 2010 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.
- UNESCO's International Bureau of Education (IBE) for curriculum development has, for the first time published special issues on the topic of "Policies and Practices of Holocaust Education", edited by Dr. Zahavit Gross (Bar-Ilan University) and Prof. Doyle Stevick. The journal was distributed at institutions of higher education and Yad Vashem, in Israel.
- The Center for Jewish Theatre initiated a joint conference with UNESCO, Germany and Israel entitled **From the Shtetl to the Global Village**, which was held at the Wansee Villa in Germany (November 2011).

UNESCO Chairs

- **The Humanistic Education Chair – Kibbutzim College**



The annual Humanistic Education conferences took place, sponsored by the Commission and with the support of the Tel Aviv municipality. Hundreds of teachers and educators attended. The conferences were widely publicized (May 2010, May 2011). The chair is an educational experiment operating the programme pre-school in cooperation with the Holon Municipality.

- **The Modern Heritage Chair – Tel Aviv University**



Prof. Moshe Margalit initiated and organized a workshop about Jewish heritage in Shanghai, China, together with the Urban Planning & Design Institute at Tongji University (April 2011).

- **The Bioethics Chair – The University of Haifa**



For the first time, a basic curriculum for teaching Bioethics was translated to Hebrew launched and taught in nursing schools in Israel.

- **The Chair for Education for Human Values, Tolerance and Peace – Bar-Ilan University.**



Prof. Yaakov Iram participated in the Symposium of UNESCO Chairs in Human Rights, Peace and Tolerance in Bergamo, Italy (March 2011).

- **The Chair for Education for Multiculturalism and Peace – Beit Berl College**



College president, Prof. Tamar Ariav, Bet Berl Academic Presiden

- College's and Chair holder Dr. Ruwaida Aburass held a meeting in Paris, with UNESCO representatives (June 2011).

- **International Network of Chairs for Cultural Tourism** – the network held its annual meeting in the Old City of Acre, in coordination with the Department of Geography at the University of Haifa.

International conferences

- **Education for Art** – Dr. Naomi Yaffe participated in the World Conference on Arts Education in Seoul, South Korea, and presented an article on "The sociocultural characteristics of musical education". Prior to the conference, Israel submitted its plan to UNESCO for art studies in education (May 2010).
- **Early Childhood Education** – Minister of Education, President of the Israel National Commission for UNESCO, MK Gideon Sa'ar, participated in the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, held in Moscow. Ms. Lea Rosenberg, Deputy Director General of International Relations and the UNESCO Division, at the Ministry of Education, presented a position paper on early childhood policy in Israel (September 2010).
- **Science and Technology Education** – The first International Conference on the interaction between art, science and technology, was sponsored by the Commission and initiated by ORT Braude College in Karmiel (June 2011).

SEMEP - Project for Environmental Education



- Mr. Farid Hamdan participated in the meeting of project coordinators from Mediterranean countries, held in Cyprus (April 2010).
- The De Shalit B Junior High School in Rehovot and College de Freres high school in Jaffa were awarded prizes of excellence for their projects which they submitted on "biodiversity" as part of the SEMEP project for environmental studies.

The Holocaust and Human Rights

- A joint project by Canada, Germany and Israel was planned at the last meeting of the ASP network Europe national coordinators in Israel (June 2010). The project examines the topic of human rights and its place in the Holocaust. The first meeting was held in Israel, and additional gatherings are planned in the aforementioned countries. Dr. Yael Harel coordinated and initiated the first meeting which discussed the past. Mr. David Walden, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, teachers from Germany, and researchers from Beit Berl College participated in the first workshop (February 2011). The second workshop meeting took place in Germany (November 2011).
- The report on human rights education in Israel education system, which was prepared by the Civics Education Chief Supervisor, was submitted to UNESCO (April 2010).

Higher Education

- The Commission submitted a status report through the Israel Council for Higher Education (Malag) to UNESCO's International Association of Universities.
- Ms. Shira Lanir from the Israel Council for Higher Education was appointed contact for higher education at UNESCO.
- Ms. Michal Neumann (from the Israel Council for Higher Education) was appointed coordinator for the higher education portal at UNESCO.

Scientific-Technological Education

- Mr. Raul Drachman and Ms. Reuma De Groot presented the "Argumentative Learning – Studying Skills" project in Latin American countries. The project was sponsored by UNESCO headquarters and the Commission. Mr. Raul Drachman presented the project at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris (May 2010).
- Dr. Michal Golan and Dr. Miri Shonfeld from the Mofet Institute participated in the International conference for teleprocessing in education, held at the organization headquarters in Paris (June 2011).

International Bureau of Education (IBE), Geneva



- At UNESCO's 35th General Conference, Israel was elected to the Intergovernmental Council of the IBE. Prof. Michal Beller, Director General, National Authority for Measurement and Evaluation in Education (RAMA), was appointed to represent Israel on the Council she retired and Ms. Lea Rosenberg replaced her.
- Ms. Lea Rosenberg represented Israel at the meeting of the IBE Intergovernmental Council held in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting discussed the IBE's work plan to develop IBE as Excellence Curriculum Center (February 2011).

Associated Schools Project Network of UNESCO (ASP)



- The network is at the end of its journey, in light of the schools' limited involvement and few resources.
- This year, Dr. Esther Lucas, who founded the network in Israel, passed away. May her memory be blessed.

The Anna Lindh Foundation

- The Commission sponsored the international **Articulating Art** project, held during 2010-2011, with the participation of Austria, Hungary, Denmark and Jordan, and which dealt with the struggle against racism. Israel was represented by students from the Mekif Aleph School in Rishon Lezion.

International Teachers' Day

- Following the invitation of the Education Sector, Prof. Nimrod Aloni presented his approach on Humanistic Education on the International Teachers' Day celebration at the UNESCO headquarters (October 2010).

Educational projects

Topic	Organization	Coordinator	Remarks
Development of Teacher Training Infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa	Mofet Institute International	Dr. Sara Ziv	September 2011
The Holocaust and Human Rights	Associated Schools Project Network	Dr. Yael Harel	January 2011 November 2011
Annual conference for Humanistic Education	UNESCO Chair Seminar Ha- Kibbutzim College	Prof. Nimrod Aloni	May 2010

B. Culture

Committee Chairperson: Mr. Shimon Alkabetz, Director of Culture Administration, Ministry of Culture and Sport.

Language preservation

- **The Hebrew Language** – following UNESCO's recognition of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda's work to revive the Hebrew language the government decided, to promote the Hebrew language in 2010/11 (January 2010).
- **International Mother Language Day** – a conference to mark the Hebrew language was held at the initiative of the Rishon LeZion municipality and sponsored by The Academy of the Hebrew Language and the Commission (February 2010).

International Council of Museums (ICOM)



- On International Museum Day, all museums in Israel were open to the public, with free admission (May 2011). The Council conducted study tour at the World Heritage sites in Acre and Beth She'arim (October 2010).
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Division for Cultural and Scientific Affairs) assisted Israel ICOM to participate in the ICOM General Conference, held in China (November 2010).
- **Haiti** – Israel branch of the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) assisted its parallel branch organization in Haiti after the earthquake.

Festivals

- **International Cinema Festival for Children (CIAK)** – Ms. Dorit Balin, Chief Supervisor for Cinema, participated in the Ciak Junior Award in Tarvisio, Italy. The film **"There are no Fish in the Sea"** won the prizes, of Best Film Ever, and Best Performance. The film was produced by the 6th grade students from Retamim School in Ashdod (May 2011).
- **The International Cartoon Contest: Humor and Health** – the 16th International Festival was initiated by the Haifa municipality and held on the Sukkot holidays festival, with the participation of dozens of cartoonists from around the world. The contest focused on "Humor Awakens Thought" and was sponsored by the

Commission. The cartoonist, Mr. Andy Chaushur from Israel, was awarded first prize (Haifa, October 2010).

Cultural Tourism

- Prof. Yoel Mansfeld from the University of Haifa was elected to the professional expert team of the European group in UNESCO for promoting sustainable tourism (June 2011).

Competitive sport

- The Israel Commission sponsored the annual conference of International Sport for Peace held in Israel by the Sports Authority (September 2011).

Rapprochement of cultures

- At the initiative of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Chair, the first International Conference in Israel on Rapprochement of Cultures was held, to mark a decade since Israel had joined the World Heritage convention (November 2010).
- The Singing Communities Association, which operates at the International Cultural Center for Youth, has been promoting the heritage of Jewish liturgical poems and songs from different generations and traditions,. For the last eight years. The organization has familiarized people with the Jewish liturgical poem as a sociocultural resource, as part of UNESCO's Rapprochement of Cultures year. It also held a concert by the new Andalusian Orchestra. A discussion was held with the participation of Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher, Dr. Meir Buzaglo and poet Erez Biton (September 2010).
- Prof. Mike Turner, Chair of UNESCO at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, participated in The Heritage of the City conference by invitation of the German Ministry of Culture (December 2011).

Workshop on Authorization and Certification of Conservers

- Ms. Vanessa Kredler, from the Museums Department (UNESCO's Cultural Sector) participated in the workshop held at the initiative of Israel Society for the Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Property, and examined ways of creating an authorization and certification programme for conservers in Israel in various fields of conservation (September 2010).

Cultural projects

Topic	Organization	Coordinator	Remarks
International Mother Language Day	Division of Adult Education and Rishon Lezion municipality	Riva Aviad, Sara Asher	February 2011
Cultural tourism conference	Haifa University	Prof. Yoel Mansfeld	May 2011
Conference for authorization of conservers in Israel	Israel Society for the Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Property	Sigal Ben Tzur	August 2010
Songs of Israel with an Ishmaelite Tune	The Jezreel Valley Arts Center	Uri Ben David, Zohar Dayan	April 2010
Intercultural Inter-Religions Dialogue Studies	UNESCO Chair for Intercultural Dialogue	Prof. Aviva Doron	March 2010
Education in a Multicultural Society	Kaye College	Dr. Riva Levenchuk	March 2011
Rapprochement of Cultures	Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design	Prof. David Guggenheim	November 2010

Historic-Urban Cultural Landscapes

- Prof. Mike Turner was one of the designers of the UNESCO policy document in the field of Historic-Urban Cultural Landscapes, as well as contributing to formulating recommendations for action. These recommendations were discussed and approved at UNESCO's 36th General Conference (June 2011).

The Public Advisory Council on Cultural Statistics

- The Central Bureau of Statistics has completed preparing its statistical infrastructure for cultural characteristics. The infrastructure is based on the recommendations and on UNESCO's cultural definitions. The database will allow the analysis of cultural development in Israel.

C. Science

Committee Chairperson: Prof. Daniel Weihs, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Science and Technology

General

- Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz Minister of Science and Technology participated in the Science for Peace Conference, sponsored by UNESCO (Budapest, November 2011).
- Prof. Emanuel Mazor from the Weizmann Institute of Science received the Environmental Excellence Award from the President of Israel.
- Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz, Minister of Science, met the Director General of UNESCO in Paris, and discussed with her the promotion of Regional Research and Development Centers in Sub-Saharan countries in Africa (September 2011).

Geology

Committee Chairperson: Dr. Ittai Gavrieli, Director of the Geological Survey



- Dr. Amos Salamon from the Geological Survey, and Dr. Dov Rosen from the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute, participated in a professional scientific meeting which discussed the development of an early warning system for a Tsunami in the Mediterranean Sea, at the UNESCO headquarters, Paris (November 2010).
- Dr. Rami Hopshteter from the Seismology Division at the Geophysical Institute of Israel participated in the UNESCO workshop on earthquakes in the Mediterranean region, which took place in Nicosia, Cyprus (March 2011).

World Science Report

- UNESCO published the 2011 Science Report and made no mention at all of Israel's scientific contribution. The President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Prof. Ruth Arnon drew the attention of UNESCO's Director General and requested that the report be updated.

UNESCO – L’Oreal Award for Young Women Scientists



- The award ceremony for the 2010 winners was held in Tel Aviv, in the presence of Dr. Daniel Hershkowitz, Minister of Science and Technology. The award winners were: Dr. Hagar Gelbard-Sagiv from the Weizmann Institute of Science, and Dr. Gali Golan of the Hebrew University. Dr. Hagar Gelbard-Sagiv from the Weizmann Institute of Science was also awarded the international UNESCO-L’Oreal award from UNESCO headquarters.
- The 2011 UNESCO-L’Oreal award was presented to Dr. Naama Geva-Zatorsky from Tel Aviv University and Dr. Adi Stern from the Weizmann Institute of Science. The doctoral student encouragement award was presented to Ms. Gruda Raizy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The award ceremony was held at the Hilton Tel Aviv hotel in the presence of MK Dr. Rachel Adatto (July 2011). Dr. Naama Geva-Zatorsky was also awarded the international UNESCO-L’Oreal fellowship.

Synchrotron (SESAME)

Committee Chairperson: Prof. Eliezer Rabinovich, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



- Prof. Rabinovich participated in the International SESAME Council meetings which were held in Egypt and Jordan. Israel, Turkey, Egypt and Iran will each contribute about one million dollars for operating the accelerator which is being built in Jordan. (June 2010, November 2010, May 2011, and December 2011).
- Mr. Avi Anati from the Ministry of Science and Technology participated in the Budget Committee meetings discussions of the synchrotron in Amman, Jordan (October 2010).

Hydrology Committee (IHP)

Committee Chairperson: Prof. Daniel Ronen, Israel Water Authority, The Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.



- Prof. Ronen represented Israel at the International Hydrological Programme meeting held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris (July 2010). During his visit he promoted with the Latin American representatives to The Blue Planet – The Water Cycle” curriculum.

- The Blue Planet curriculum staff ran a training workshop for advisors in Chile. The staff included Prof. Daniel Ronen, Dr. Orit Ben Zvi Assaraf (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Prof. Hogo Lemcoff (Volcani Center) and Prof. Nir Orion (Weizmann Institute of Science) (December 2010). A similar workshop was held with these experts in the Argentinean province of Chaco (November 2011).
- Prof. Ronen was invited to Panama to present the Blue Planet curriculum to the staff of the Ministry of the Environment and Water (October 2010).

Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Commission Chairperson: Prof. Herut Barak, Director General of the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute.



- Prof. Herut Barak represented Israel at the annual IOC conference at UNESCO (June 2011).
- Prof. Dov Rosen of the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR) institute participated in the activity of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Coordination Committee for setting up a warning system for a tsunami in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean and connected seas (March 2010).
- Prof. Rosen and Dr. Amos Salamon from the Geological Survey participated in the seventh meeting of ICG/NEAMTWS which was held in Paris, France (November 2010).
- Following the request of the ICG/NEAMTWS from the countries who are members of the IOC, to operate sea level monitoring stations to broadcast data in real time, Dov Rosen as the IOLR Institute representative together with the CIESM Director General, Prof. Frederic Briand, promoted an upgrade of the sea level monitoring stations of the members of the MedGLOSS organization. Software was also developed and equipment was purchased for upgrading the MedGLOSS stations in Romania, Ukraine, Cyprus, Malta, and Israel (stations in Hadera, Ashdod and Eilat, February 2010).
- The IOLR conducted a training workshop to representatives from these countries on how to upgrade their measuring stations in real time (broadcasting measurements each minute), and also provided them with the equipment which was bought for these stations with the funding of CIESM (February 2010). Since then, equipment has been installed at all the overseas stations, as well as the IOLR station in Hadera, with all broadcasting information to the tsunami warning system. The IOLR stations in Ashdod and Eilat will also be upgraded by the end of April 2011, with all the Israeli activity funded by the IOLR.

- Prof. Rosen also participated in the workshop organized by CIESM on the topic of Geo-risks in the Mediterranean Sea, which concentrated on the risks from tsunami waves and the problems regarding warning of tsunami waves following overflow caused by earthquakes. The participation was funded by CIESM Nicosia, Cyprus (February 2011).
- A workshop headed by Prof. Dov Rosen on the dangers of a tsunami in Israel was held by the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR) institute, (May 2011).

Science for peace

- The commission recommended to UNESCO to sponsor the Technion's traditional annual conference at the UNESCO headquarters (November 2010).
- Prof. Ada Yonath, winner of the Nobel Prize and the UNESCO-L'Oreal award, was invited to participate in the discussion on "Science, Technology and Innovation" at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris (September 2011).

International Year of Chemistry (2011)



- UNESCO declared 2011 to be the International Year of Chemistry, and The Israel Chemical Society (the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology) organized extremely impressive activities.

January	Opening the International Year of Chemistry events in the Knesset Issuing stamps Awarding the IOLR medal to the chemist of excellence – Awarding the IOLR medal to the green chemical industry	Hanna Attali and the Science and Technology Knesset Committee
	Opening the International Year of Chemistry events at UNESCO, Paris	Ehud Keinan
February	The Israel Chemical Society Conference	The Israel Chemical Society

March	Galileo	Article by Prof. Keinan "Chemistry is everything!!!"
April	We have Chemistry!	Yael Shwartz – Weizmann Institute of Science
	Tour of Ramat Hovav, by the Israel Chemical Society organizing committee.	Manufacturers Association of Israel, Ramat Hovav Council
May	Independence Day – "A Salute to Chemistry"	Hanna Attali and the Manufacturers Association of Israel
June	Conference – Art, Science and Technology: interaction between three cultures at ORT Braude College	Alec Groysman, Israeli Society of Chemical Engineers and Chemists
September	Scientists' Night – "Chemistry in the Service of the Community" – a night of scientific activity for all the family the universities, museums, and at research institutes.	Dr. Gabi Lemcoff, Ben- Gurion University of the Negev
December	Seminar with Ambassador of Italy and industry	Prof. Ehud Keinan
	1 vs. 100 (TV programme) (One student vs. 100 chemists)	Ms. Hanna Attali

The Man and the Biosphere Committee (MAB)



Committee Chairperson: Prof. Uriel Safriel, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

- The Biosphere Reserve of Megiddo was inscribed by UNESCO (June 2011)
- Prof. Safriel, the committee chairperson, participated in the conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Japan, October 2010).

- The committee chairperson participated in the conference held in Germany marking the 40th anniversary of the MAB programme, and took part in the discussions of the International Council of Man and the Biosphere, which inscribed the Biospheric Reserve of Megiddo, Dresden, Germany (June 2011).
- Dr. Natarajan Ishwaran, Director of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme, visited Israel to promote the topic of sustainability and the MAB programme in Israel. He was a guest at the biospheric reserves on Mount Carmel and at Megiddo, examined their programme, operating methods, and met with green organizations and government representatives (November 2010).
- Workshop on Ecological Benefit (Biodiversity) – a workshop was held at Sde Boker at the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Committee, and in cooperation with the Institutes for Desert Research in the Negev, to examine ways of implementing UNESCO's Madrid Action Plan. The workshop included a presentation and lessons learned from the British model (October 2010).
- Urban Biosphere Reserve Conference – as part of the international conference for the Rapprochement of Culture, organized by the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Dr. Ishwaran Natarajan, Director of the UNESCO Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, presented the topic of urban biosphere reserve (November 2010).
- Synergy of Rio Conventions – Prof. Uriel Safriel and Dr. Natarajan Ishwaran conducted a round table discussion, during the third international Conference on Desertification at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev on the synergy within the Rio Conventions (November 2010).
- Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary for the Convention to Combat Desertification, who participated in the discussion, called on the countries to synchronize the Conventions activities on a local level (November 2010).

The Israel Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences Conference

- The Society's annual conference took place at the initiative of the Megiddo Regional Council in the planner biospher reserve. The commission Secretary General moderated a discussion, with the participation of Mr. Hanan Erez (Head of the Megiddo Regional Council), Dr. Yehoshua Shkedy, (Chief Scientist at the Israel Nature & Parks Authority) and Ms. Iris Han (Director of Research at the Open Landcape Institute) (June 2011), about the place of leadership in developing awareness in the community regarding sustainability.

Science projects

Topic	Organization	Coordinator	Remarks
Implementing the workshops for the Blue Planet curriculum in Latin America, and translating it into English.	Weizmann Institute	Prof. Nir Orion, Prof. Daniel Ronen Prof. Hogo Lemcoff Dr. Orit Ben Zvi Assaraf	October 2010 November 2011
Megiddo Biosphere Reserve Ceremony	Megiddo Regional Council	Avraham Azulay	September 2011
The Israel Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences Conference	Megiddo Regional Council	Prof. Ido Itzhaki	June 2011

D. Social and human sciences

The committee chairperson, Prof. Friedman, retired his post and no one has yet been appointed in his place.



- Prof. Avraham (Rami) Friedman participated in the intergovernmental committee discussions held in Paris (March 2011).

The Committee on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)



- Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron, President of the Open University, was chosen to head the Israeli committee for the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology.
- The mapping and analysis of the ethical codes on which the Higher Education Institutions in Israel operate was completed. A study day is planned on the topic of interface between society and the Higher Education Institutions.
- Prof. Messer-Yaron participated in COMEST's meeting of international experts held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, which discussed ethics and climatic changes (June 2010).
- The committee is in the middle of a process with the goal of incorporating the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Planning and Budgeting Committee in its activities. A joint meeting was held, which discussed the position paper prepared by the Open University (December 2011).

Philosophy

- The New Acropolis Assoc. marked the Philosophy Day with a study day at the Cinematheque, Tel Aviv, with the participation of people involved with spirituality, culture and education (November 2011).

Coexistence and Tolerance

- An academic course on the topic of Coexistence in the Middle East was held, sponsored by the commission the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Rothberg International School, and the International Institute of Leadership at Beit Berl. 23 undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the world took part in the seminar which was held in Jerusalem (July 2010).

Bioethics (IBC)

- Prof. Efrat Levy-Lahad, (Shaare Zedek Medical Center), the Israeli representative on the UNESCO bioethics experts committee (IBC), completed her term on the committee.
- **The Bioethics Chair – University of Haifa** – held the second Zefat conference on the topic of “Education and Bioethics”, sponsored by the UNESCO headquarters, and with the participation of Mr. H. ten. Have, head of the Division of Bioethics, spoke in the name of UNESCO. Dozens of experts from Israel and overseas participated in the conference (June 2010).
- **Publication of study Materials** – the curriculum based on the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights was translated to Hebrew, and will be used as study material in Israel medical and nursing schools.
- Two guidance pamphlets Cost Benefit and Integrity in Bioethics were published by UNESCO headquarters in Paris.
- **Training and Capacity Development in Bioethics** – Prof. Amnon Carmi, Chair for Bioethics at the University of Haifa and his staff moderated a training workshop for experts in this field in Dubrovnik, Croatia (May 2010) and Belgrade (July 2011).
- **The International Bioethics Conference** of the Haifa Chair took place attended by the representatives from UNESCO Chairs who are members of the network, and around 20 branches from around the world, sponsored by UNESCO in Baku, Azerbaijan (May 2011).
- Prof. Amnon Carmi participated in an experts’ meeting on the topic of implementing the curriculum on bioethics and human rights in medical and nursing schools worldwide, Paris (November 2011).

Social and human sciences projects

Topic	Organization	Coordinator	Remarks
Coalition Against Racism program	The Ministry of Education	Prof. Rami Friedman	Distributed to local authorities
Ethical Code in Sciences and Technologies	The Open University	Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron	In process

E. Information for All Committee (IFA)

Committee Chairperson: Prof. Aharon (Roni) Aviram, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, replaced Prof. Nir Ahituv, Tel Aviv University as chairperson.



- In 2009 Israel was elected to the UNESCO intergovernmental Information for All Committee, until 2013.
- Prof. Niv Ahituv participated in the unofficial IFA committee meeting in Moscow, which discussed the development of an ethical code for cyberspace. The committee submitted its recommendations to UNESCO (March 2010).

Memory of the World Committee

- A Memory of the World Committee has been established, headed by Prof. Elhanan Adler from the Hebrew University, and is currently finalizing its work plan to be focus on:
- Translating the Memory of the World programme into Hebrew.
- Mapping the principle Architect Archives in Israel by the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design.
- Mapping Israeli collections by the National Library, for recognition by the UNESCO MOWCommittee.
- Mr. Roni Manor, head of the Information Center at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, participated in the discussions of the advisory council to UNESCO's Memory of the World programme in Manchester, England (May 2011).
- Prof. Adler conducted a study tour in England and Holland to familiar with the knowledge which has been accumulated there in operating a MOW committee and submitting candidacy to UNESCO (October 2011).

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

- As part of its involvement in the Memory of the World programme, the Forum for Audiovisual Conservation is promoting public awareness through an annual conference, publicity and legislation (June 2010-2011).

Copyright Committee of Experts

- Dr. Meir Gabai who served for many years as the chairperson of the International Expert Committee at UNESCO, passed away. He was replaced by Attorney Howard Poliner from the Ministry of Justice. Attorney Poliner participated in the meeting held at the UNESCO headquarters, Paris (June 2010).

Information for All projects

Topic	Organization	Person responsible	Remarks
Digitization of Arabic newspapers from the 1920s	Givat Haviva	Dudu Amitai	February 2010
Workshops for Digital Development of Archives for Memory of the World	Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design	Roni Manor	June 2010

F. Israel World Heritage Committee

Committee Chairperson: Architect Arie Rahamimov was appointed in place of Prof. Mike Turner, from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design.



- Israel completed its term of office in UNESCO's World Heritage Intergovernmental World Committee. Prof. Mike Turner, from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, has represented Israel over the past 4 years.
- Prof. Turner participated in an experts meeting which discussed the process of upstreaming of World Heritage sites candidacies, in Bangkok, Thailand (April 2010).
- Prof. Turner and Mr. Yoav Sagi were chosen as the 2010 planning honorees of Israel Architects Association.
- Prof. Turner was the head of the team which met at the World Heritage Center to examine the proposed changes to the convention guidelines (November 2010).
- Prof. Turner represented the UNESCO Chair at Bezalel in the discussion on the UNESCO recommendations for Historic Urban Landscapes (May 2011).

UNESCO World Heritage Committee

- Israel participated in the 34th General Conference which took place in Brasilia, Brazil. The delegation members were: Prof. Turner (Chairperson), Prof. Eli Stern (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Dr. Nadav Kashtan (Western Galilee College), Mr. Modi Oron (Israel Nature and Parks Authority), Architect Tal Eyal (ICOMOS Israel), Architect Tzachi Katz (Jerusalem Municipality), Mr. Tibi Schlosse-Shalev (International Organizations Department 1) and Ms. Michal Pelosof, Israel's ambassador to UNESCO) (July 2010).
- The Committee chairperson, architect Arie Rahamimov represented Israel at the 35th General Assembly of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in Paris (June 2011).
- The committee chairperson, architect Arie Rahamimov, represented Israel at the General Assembly of the World Heritage convention (November 2011).

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

- The definitions of the OUV of Israeli sites, which had been inscribed by the World Heritage Committee, were approved in Brasilia. These definitions will help the bodies responsible for the sites to preserve their cultural values (August 2010).

Hearing process – a Central Conservation Mechanism

- The hearing process began on the basis of the decision by the Israel National Commission for UNESCO, regarding the implementation of clause 5 in the World Heritage convention in Israel.
- The outgoing committee chairperson, Prof. Mike Turner, and the committee coordinator, heard most of its members. The main points which arose in the discussions were recorded and presented to the members. About 9 models for the central mechanism were proposed. Concurrently, ICOMOS Israel submitted an international comparative analysis report of mechanisms operating in the world, to the committee. In addition, a cost-benefit analysis of risks and opportunities of these models, suggested by the Committee members was presented to them.
- At this stage, the organizations involved with conservation in Israel will submit their positions to ICOMOS Israel, who will examine them in light of the models chosen by the Committee then ICOMOS Israel will be submitted recommendations to ISWHCommittee.

World Heritage Sites in Israel

The Old Arch at Dan – this is the third running year that the “political bug” has harmed the inscription of the site. Once again, the Old Arch at Dan has not been approved due to the opposition of the Arab countries to the site’s geographic border since 1919, which was clearly demonstrated by that it is within the borders of Israel and which is identified as being in Israel. The WHCommittee decided to discuss this candidacy again only after solving the problem of the borders (June 2011). In practice, this decision lays the candidacy to rest.

- The ISWHcommittee withdrew the candidacy of **“Early Christian sites in the Galilee”**, since the recommendation of ICOMOS International was not positive.
- **“Land of Caves and Hiding”** – the ICOMOS International evaluator, Mr. Pietro Laureano from Italy, studied the area and consulted with interested parties. There was also a desk evaluation by ICOMOS International, which ended in a recommendation to return the candidacy to the state, and therefore Israel withdrew its candidacy for reevaluation.
- **Land of Machteshim** – as part of the preparations for updating the candidacy it was recommended to inscribe the Land of Machteshim as a UNESCO geopark, in order to protect it from accelerated development.
- **Nahal Hamearot (Valley of the Caves) on Mount Carmel** – Nahal Hamearot on the Carmel reflects human development since the times of prehistoric man. Evaluators from International ICOMOS and IUCN have visited Israel, and submitted their recommendations to UNESCO (October 2010).

- **The Dead Sea** – the site appears in Israel's tentative list and various parties in Israel (Protection of the Coastal Environment Committee) and worldwide (The World Bank) are showing an interest in it.
- The World Bank economist (Hilary Sunman) visited Israel and met with the representatives of government and non-government bodies regarding the planning of the Red-Dead Canal.
- Following the Protection of the Coastal Environment Committee discussions, a position paper by Prof. Mike Turner for implementing UNESCO international programs and conventions regarding the Dead Sea, was submitted.

Statutory Teams

- Over the past two years, the work of three statutory teams has been renewed, in accordance with the 1972 Convention; Evaluation of the Tentative List (chairperson, Zvika Zuk), Development and Training capacity for Conservation (chairperson, Raanan Kislev), and Monitoring and Reporting (chairperson, Guy Kav-Venaki).

Flags and signs to Heritage Sites in Israel

- The ISWHCommittee donated UNESCO and World Heritage flags to the Israel Nature and Parks Authority to place them at the World Heritage sites in Israel: Tel Hazor, Tel Megiddo, Tel Be'er Sheva, Mamshit, Avdat, Haluza and Masada.
- It was determined in coordination with the Israel National Roads Company Ltd. that directive signs would be placed on Israel's main intercity highways leading to the World Heritage sites which are scattered throughout Israel. There will also be directive signs in the urban areas of Acre, Haifa and Tel Aviv, in coordination with the local authorities which have World Heritage sites.

Development of Conservation Studies

- The Western Galilee College has opened a conservation literature library to mark the establishment of the B.A. programme in Conservation Studies.
- The University of Haifa has opened a M.A. track in Conservation of Material Culture Heritage.
- The Israel Antiquities Authority has launched the establishment of the International Conservation Center in Acre, and opened a national conservation library.

Cooperation with ICOMOS Israel



- Adv. Gideon Koren, President of ICOMOS Israel, was chosen as vice-president of ICOMOS International.
- ICOMOS Israel submitted opinions about the Old City of Acre, and the proposed changes to the Tel Aviv Mann Auditorium for discussion by the monitoring committee.
- Over the past two years, ICOMOS Israel has also submitted evaluations of the feasibility files for the sites of: Ancient Nazereth, Nahal Hamearot, Beit Shearim and the Land of Caves and Hiding.

Conferences in Israel

- **Rapprochement of Cultures** – the conference intended to be the highlight of events of the International Year for Rapprochement of Cultures, declared by UNESCO, was held at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, on the topic of Cultural Diversity in Urban Context (November 2010). The participants included: Mr. Francesco Bandarin (Deputy Director General of Culture, UNESCO), Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki (Director, ICCROM), Mr. Neil Silberman (University of Massachusetts). The conference was sponsored by the World Heritage Center, the Beracha Foundation, and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura (November 2010).
- **Sustainability in Rural Areas** – Bar-Ilan University hosted the 18th International Colloquium which discussed sustainability in light of the changes taking place in rural areas. The conference was held under the sponsorship of the committee, the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites, the Jewish National Fund and the Planning Administration (July 2010).
- **Ancient Routes Conference** – the conference was organized by Midreshet Sde Boker, and discussed the topic of ancient routes – the Incense Route, and was sponsored of the Commission, ICOMOS-Israel and Ben-Gurion University (May 2010).
- **Cultural landscapes** – a conference for implementing the concept of “Cultural Landscapes” into the Israel planning system, took place with the sponsorship of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, the Planning Administration and the Commission. Experts from the World Heritage Center (Dr. Rössler Mechtild) and from ICCROM (Ms. Katri Lisitzin) participated. The conference was held at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev campus (March 2010).

- Mr. Yuval Peled from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority participated at the Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes).
- By Virtue of the Place – the conference has dealt with the tools for managing and conserving heritage in the local authorities, and was organized by the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites and the Planning Administration (August 2010).
- Conference on Reducing the Dangers for Historic Buildings During Earthquakes – was held at the initiative of the Israel Antiquities Authority. The conference discussed the experience and lessons to be learned from conservation of historic buildings after the earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy (December 2011).

International and Regional Conferences

Monitoring World Heritage sites in the Mediterranean Basin

- The Annual Meeting of the World Heritage Center for monitoring World Heritage sites in the European Mediterranean sub-region took place in Acre, with the participation of experts from France, Italy, the Vatican, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Malta and Israel (March 2010).
- Mr. Guy Kav-Venaki, chairperson of the committee monitoring and reporting staff, represented Israel at the annual meeting in Malta (September 2011).

Cooperation with ICCROM



- Mr. Raanan Kislev, Director of Conservation Administration at the Israel Antiquities Authority, and Israel representative of ICCROM's Intergovernmental Council Board, attended the Council Meetings which took place in Rome (November 2010; November 2011).

Education and World Heritage

- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority education department has prepared a guidance pack for Israel World Heritage sites, which was distributed to teachers and Israel Nature and Parks Authority guides, through the Youth and Society Administration (April 2010).
- The International Conservation Center in Acre opened a third Saving the Stones programme, with the participation of ten conservation interns from Europe, Latin America and the USA. The project is directed by Ms. Shelley-Anne Peleg from the Israel Antiquities Authority (June 2011).

World Heritage projects

Topic	Organization	Coordinator	Remarks
Tentative list map (GIS)	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Yonat Magal	October 2010
B.A. Conservation Track	Western Galilee College	Dr. Nadav Kashtan	March 2010
Monitoring Heritage sites in Mediterranean Countries	The World Heritage Committee	Michelle Sofge	March 2010
Survey on Risk Preparedness	Old Acre Development Company	Dudu Harari	January 2010
Cultural Landscapes Conference	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev/ The Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Prof. Eli Stern/ Yuval Peled	March 2010
Development vs. Conservation in Agricultural Regions Conference	Bar-Ilan University	Dr. Irit Amit-Cohen	July 2010
Training and Developing Manpower for Conservation	The Israel Antiquities Authority	Shelley-Anne Peleg	June 2010
Conference on Arab Built Heritage in Israel	The University of Haifa	Prof. Rassem Khamaisi	August 2010

3. Israel in UNESCO



- Prof. Rivka Carmi, President of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, met with the UNESCO Director General, and discussed the development of a cross-border chair with Jordan (March 2011).
- Prof. Tamar Ariav, president of Beit Berl College, met with the Assistant Director General of Education of UNESCO, and discussed the advancement and development of connections with the organization (June 2011).

Relation with Member States

Austria

- Ms. Mor Kalinsky was an intern, as part of her B.A. studies, in the Austrian Commission of UNESCO, on the topic of Cultural Diversity and Intangible Cultural Heritage, under the guidance of the Secretary General, Ms. Gabriela Eschig (2010).

Cyprus

- Israel supported Cyprus' request to host UNESCO's SEMEP conference for environmental studies, of the programme coordinators from the Mediterranean countries (April 2010).

Finland

- Ms Zabrina Holmström, the Secretary General of Finland, visited Israel within the framework of the conference for the strength of mission about the Holocaust (July 2010).

Internship

- Mr. Elad Horn, an architecture student at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, was an intern at the Israel Commission for UNESCO in the field of Cultural Heritage, and coordinated the monitoring team on World Heritage sites in Israel.

4. UNESCO in Israel



Capacity Building

- MASHAV – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reached an agreement with UNESCO's Department of International Relations, to grant around 90 scholarships during 2010-2011 for various MASHAV courses in Israel.
- A MASHAV course "Media Strategies for Social Change" at the Mount Carmel International Training center, was sponsored by the Israel Commission for UNESCO.
- UNESCO provided a scholarship to researcher Ms. Reut Stern from Bezalel Academy, who studied courses in the USA in the field of design and administration of cultural heritage (April 2011).

Participation Programme

- UNESCO has authorized one joint programme (Germany, Israel and Canada) The Holocaust and Human Rights.

Protection of UNESCO logo

- UNESCO's intangible logo is protected by the State's Symbol Protection Act.

Appendix: Implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and UNESCO (2.2008)

Clause in the agreement	Essence/ content	Remarks
2 (General)	Activities with UNESCO networks; chairs, the ASP network and the civil society	Ongoing by the Israel Commission for UNESCO
	Experts participation in the UNESCO committees	
	Programme and expert visits	Carried out as needed
	Joint organization of international conferences	Israel Commission for UNESCO organized the following conferences: - Monitoring World Heritage Sites in Mediterranean States. (March 2010) - Desertification (October 2010) - Risk Preparedness at World Heritage Sites (December 2009).
2.1 (Education)	Cooperation with developing countries and with Africa to achieve Dakar targets – Education For All, teacher training in sub-Saharan Africa	A study tour is planned in Africa (Mofet)
	Literacy Decade	Israel submitted a report to the Belém Conference (Brasilia, December 2010)

Clause in the agreement	Essence/ content	Remarks
2.2 (Science)	Conservation of the Environment	Carried out by UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Committee
	Water Education	The Blue Planet (BP) curriculum was run in Latin America (Chile, Argentina)
	Developing a science and technology center in Africa (RD)	Is currently being examined by the MASHAV and Africa department (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ The Ministry of Science)
	Establishment of the UNESCO center for Bioinformatics at the Weizmann Institute of Science	In the process of discussion with the Ministry of Science
	Scholarships to MASHAV Training	Ongoing responsibility of MASHAV
	Bi-annual Conference on Desertification	Carried out by the Institutes for Desert Research in the Negev, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
2.3 (Culture)	Implementing the World Heritage Convention	Implemented continuously
	Promoting Cultural Tourism	A UNESCO Chair is planned to be set up at Haifa University
2.4 (Social and human sciences)	Training and Courses in Bioethics	Ongoing by UNESCO Chair at Haifa University

Clause in the agreement	Essence/ content	Remarks
2.5 Information for All	Memory of the World programme	An Israel committee has been established and staffed, and digital pilot studies have been performed.
	Participation in Intergovernmental Committees: IFA/ IPDC	Participating in these committees on a regular basis.
2.6 Holocaust memory	Development of educational programmes for Holocaust studies in UNESCO countries.	A unit on this topic is operating in UNESCO.
4	Joint steering committee	No such meeting has taken place so far.