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The Eli Hurvitz Conference on Economy and Society

November 3–4, 2014 Dan Carmel Haifa Hotel



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November 3–4, 2014
Dan Carmel Haifa

Conference Program

Conference Director: Mr. Yarom Ariav

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Monday, November 3, 2014

8:30–9:00 am

Registration

9:00–10:00 am

Opening Session

Introduction and Greetings

Mr. Yohanan Plesner, President, The Israel Democracy Institute

The Prime Minister's Address: Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu (via video)

Opening Remarks

Mr. Yona Yahav, Mayor of Haifa

How Did the Government's Inability to Implement Policy become a Deadweight on the Economy?

Mr. Yarom Ariav, Conference Director

10:00–10:45 am

Session on Legal Corruption

Presentation of the Work Group Recommendations

Adv. Yoav Segalovich, Formerly Head of the Investigations and Intelligence Unit, Israel Police

Dr. Taly Eichenwald-Dvir, Associate Dean and Head of Graduate Programs, Arison School of Business, The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya

Address by the Minister of Justice: Ms. Tzipi Livni

Remarks: **Judge (Ret.) Josef H. Shapira**, State Comptroller and Ombudsman of Israel

Remarks: **Inspector General Yochanan Danino**, Commissioner, Israel Police

10:45–11:30 am

Session on Regulation

Is there too Much Regulation in Israel?

Presentation of Work Group Recommendations

Dr. Assaf Cohen, Chief Strategist, Giza Singer Even; Former Senior Deputy Director General for Economics and Budgeting, Minister of Communications

Respondents

Mr. Zvi Oren, President, Manufacturers' Association of Israel; Chairman, The Presidium of Israeli Business Organizations

Adv. Orit Farkash-Hacohen, Chair, Public Utility Authority—Electricity

Mr. David Leffler, Director General, Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection

11:30–11:45 am

Break

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11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Panel Discussion on Regulation and Growth

Moderator: Ms. Stella Korin Lieber, Journalist, Globes

Mr. Amit Lang, Director General, Ministry of Economy

Dr. Joseph Bachar, Chairman of the Board, Discountbank

Ms. Dorit Salinger, Commissioner of Capital Markets, Insurance & Savings

Mr. Dan Propper, Chairman, Osem Group

Adv. Ram Caspi, Managing Partner, Caspi and Co.

Mr. Michael Golan, CEO, Golan Telecommunications

12:30–2:00 pm

The Government's Ability to Implement Policy: Plenary Discussion

Address by the Minister of Transport, National Infrastructures and Road Safety: Mr. Israel Katz

Public Opinion on the Government's Ability to Implement Policy: Presentation of Survey Findings

Prof. Tamar Hermann, Senior Fellow, The Israel Democracy Institute; Department of Political Science, The Open University of Israel

Mr. Mano Geva, CEO, Midgam Research and Consulting; Chairman, Association of Research Institutes in Israel

Opening Comments

MK Nissan Slomiansky, Chair, Knesset Finance Committee

Adv. Uriel Lynn, President, Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce

Mr. Ori Yogev, Director, Israel Government Companies Authority

Plenary Discussion

2:00–3:30 pm

Lunch

Address by the Governor of the Bank of Israel: Dr. Karnit Flug

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3:30–4:30 pm

Session on Innovation

Does the Start-Up Nation Encourage Innovation?

Presentation of the Work Group Recommendations

Dr. Leonid Bakman, Founder and Executive Director, Israel Innovation Institute (ISTIPI)

Respondents

Mr. Amit Lang, Director General, Ministry of Economy

Prof. Eugene Kandel, Head, National Economic Council

Mr. Imad Telhami, Founder and Chairman, Babcom

Mr. Guido Pardo Roques, President & CEO at Philips Electronics (Israel), General Manager at Philips Medical Systems Technologies

Plenary Discussion

4:30–6:30 pm

Workshops and Drafting of Position Papers

6:30–7:30 pm

Summary of Day One

In the presence of the Honorable Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin, President of Israel

6:30–6:45 pm

**Address by the President of the State of Israel:
The Honorable Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin**

6:45–7:30 pm

Presentation of the Work Group Recommendations to the President of Israel

7:30–9:30 pm

Gala Dinner

The Best and the Brightest: Israel's Rising Academic Stars

Brains Male or Female?

Prof. Daphna Joel, School of Psychological Sciences and Sagol School of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv University

Nano-Robots with Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Ido Bachelet, Scientist and Lecturer, Bar-Ilan University

The Exits that Israel Must Not Miss

Ms. Maissa Ballout Shamsoum, CPA, Treasurer and Corporate Controller at Rivulis; Financial Advisor at Presentense

How Synthetic Biology will Change the World

Dr. Omri Amirav-Drory, Founder and CEO, Genome Compiler

Landing the First Israeli Spaceship on the Moon

Mr. Kfir Damari, Founder of Spacell and Metapacket

Moderator: **Ms. Sivan Klingbail**, Journalist and Editor

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Tuesday, November 4, 2014

9:00–10:00 am

Three Perspectives on Governance

Presenters

Mr. Ehud Praver, Deputy Director General for Governance and Social Affairs, Prime Minister's Office

Adv. Zvi Hauser, Former Cabinet Secretary

Mr. Boaz Rakocz, Director General, Knesset Social Guard

10:00–11:30 am

Session on Education

Differential Budgeting in Education

Presentation of the Work Group Recommendations

Prof. Moshe Justman, Academic Director of the Israeli Civil Society Unit, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute; Professor of Economics, Ben-Gurion University

Address by the Education Minister: Rabbi Shai Piron

Respondents

Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg, Chair, Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education in Israel

Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi, President, Achva Academic College

Ms. Karen Tal, CEO, Tovnot B'Hinuch

Mr. Jackie Vakim, CPA, Treasurer of the Haifa Municipality; Member of the Board of Directors of Mifal Hapayis

Mr. Yossi Sarid

Plenary Discussion

11:30 am–12:00 pm

Break

12:00–1:30 pm

Session on Human Resources in the Civil Service

Presentation of the Work Group Recommendations

Mr. Doron Cohen, CPA, Director of the Israeli Ultra-Orthodox Project, The Israel Democracy Institute; Former Director General of the Ministry of Finance

Respondents

MK Mickey Levy, Deputy Minister of Finance

Mr. Moshe Dayan, Civil Service Commissioner

Prof. Momi Dahan, Senior Fellow, The Israel Democracy Institute; Head of the Federmann School of Public Policy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Yotam Margalit, Senior Fellow, The Israel Democracy Institute; Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Plenary Discussion

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1:30–3:00 pm

Lunch

**Address by the Chairman of the Histadrut Labor Federation:
Mr. Avi Nissenkorn**

3:00–4:30 pm

Session on Productivity

Why Is the Israeli Economy Stuck?

[Presentation of the Work Group Recommendations](#)

Prof. Zvi Eckstein, Dean of the Arison School of Business and the School of Economics, and Director of the Aaron Institute for Economic Policy, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya

[Respondents](#)

MK Prof. Avishay Braverman, Chair, Knesset Economic Affairs Committee

Prof. Eugene Kandel, Head of the National Economic Council, Prime Minister's Office

Prof. Nathan Sussman, Director, Research Department, Bank of Israel

Mr. Motty Shapira, Director General, LAHAV, the Israel Association of Small Business Organizations

[Plenary Discussion](#)

4:30–4:45 pm

Break

4:45–6:00 pm

Security and Society: The State of Israel's National Resilience

[One on One](#)

**Ms. Yael German, Minister of Health, in conversation with
Mr. Eitan Avriel, Editor, TheMarker**

[Panel Discussion](#)

MK Zeev Elkin, Chairman of the Coalition and Chairman of the Knesset Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense

MK Merav Michaeli, Member, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense

MK Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, Member, Knesset Finance Committee

MK Dr. Ahmed Tibi, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset

MK Omer Bar-Lev, Member, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

[Moderator: Mr. Eytan Avriel](#), Editor, TheMarker

6:00–6:30 pm

**Summary: Improving the Government's Ability to Implement Policy – A Key to
Achieving Economic Goals**

Mr. Yarom Ariav, Director, Eli Hurvitz Conference on Economy and Society

[IDI's Plans to Promote Structural Reforms in the Public Service and Economy](#)

Mr. Yohanan Plesner, President, The Israel Democracy Institute

6:30 pm

Light Meal

Appendix: Workshops

1. The Future Relationship between Regulator and Regulated

The development of a trusting relationship between the regulator and regulated entities would improve the government's ability to implement as well as the business sector's ability to plan and execute. It would also catalyze economic growth. What steps can be taken to bring about a substantial improvement in trust between the two?

Leader: **Dr. Assaf Cohen**

2. The Legal Adviser to Government Ministries: Gatekeeper or Change Agent?

Legal advisers to government ministries are generally seen as gatekeepers or as people who prevent the implementation of processes. The possibility that a legal adviser could be a proactive advocate for the values of a democratic state is generally overlooked. Is the legal advisor's job to assess risks and defend policymakers when necessary? Or does a legal adviser have a moral obligation to make decision-makers aware of the moral and ethical principles on which democracy is founded?

Leader: **Adv. Noga Rubinstein**

3. Reducing the Regulatory Burden: Regulation as a Growth Engine?

Israel's Socioeconomic Cabinet recently approved a resolution to reduce the regulatory burden that is expected to reduce the direct costs associated with regulation by 25% within five years. What is the regulator's role in ensuring the growth and development of the economy? Beyond the legal obligation to carry out Government decisions, how can the regulator's way of thinking be changed so as to take into account indirect costs (such as the lack of a regulatory horizon), which often are a more significant obstacle to the development of the business sector?

Leader: **Amir Chaik, CPA**

4. Differential Budgeting in Education

Differential budgeting in education is a fascinating test case of the government's ability to implement. Although the idea of differential budgeting was discussed by a number of high-level committees over the years and was approved by the Education Ministry, it has never been implemented. What is preventing the implementation of a decision approved at the highest levels? How can we overcome the hurdles?

Leader: **Prof. Moshe Justman**

With: **Ms. Michal Cohen**, Director General, Ministry of Education

5. Limiting the Number of Personnel in the Civil Service

One of the government's largest expenses is employee's salaries. Although the Deficit Reduction and Budgetary Expenditure Limits Law 5752–1992 restricts the size of the budget deficit and government spending in the long term, it sets no limits on the number of people the government can employ. The sharp increase in the staff size of government ministries in recent years and the lack of multiyear planning have placed a severe burden on the budget and made it difficult for Israeli governments to define their priorities. In response, the government has proposed to limit the number of positions that are not directly related to providing services to the public for a period of four years.

Leader: Ms. Yael Mevorach

6. Attracting Field Workers to the Civil Service

Many talented young people would like to find jobs in public service. Most of them, however, are interested in positions in the main headquarters. How can we attract high-caliber personnel to field positions in order to improve the quality of the service provided to the public?

Leader: Mr. Doron Cohen, CPA

7. Digital Israel: A Quantum Leap

The Digital Israel project is expected to have a deep and broad impact on the life of all of us: it will improve services, reduce gaps, and create new opportunities. How can we overcome the obstacles to its implementation? What influence will this project have on the government's ability to implement policy?

Leader: Dr. Yair Shindel

8. Start-Up Government?

Innovation is the capacity to think and act in a different way, in a manner that creates value. At the level of the state, innovation exists when fixed patterns of thought and paradigms are broken and, as a result, new and diverse policy alternatives are brought before decision-makers. What can be done to promote innovation in the civil service and to improve the government's ability to implement policy?

Leader: Mr. Amnon Levav