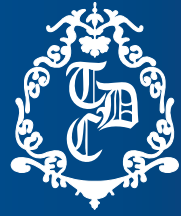


The Diplomatic Club

JUNE 2015



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THE PHILIPPINES:
A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY
IN ASIA

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THE JOY
OF CREATION



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Dear friends,

This issue was composed in the atmosphere of the Ramadan celebration.

As Muslim holidays are not officially part of the Israeli national calendar the observers of these holidays can take personal days off work and Muslim owned businesses can choose to close or close early. You can best feel the Muslim holidays in East Jerusalem and Arab villages, towns and cities where there is a large Muslim population. In Jerusalem's Old City the Muslim Quarter and the Temple Mount are the focus of Muslim holiday celebrations.

During the month long period where Muslims faste during sunlight hours the visiting times at Muslim sites in Israel are often shorter. In Jerusalem the beginning of Ramadan and each sundown during the month is signaled by cannons being fired from the Eastern Jerusalem Armory. The gates of the Old City are strung with festive lights. This is a great time to visit certain Arab villages in the evening after sundown. At Umm al-Fahem the streets come alive at night with people strolling through the streets and eating delicacies from the bakeries which sell traditional sweets and deserts.

Ramadan, the ninth month on the Islamic calendar, is marked by obligatory fasting during daylight hours for adult Muslims. It is also a time of religious reflection, charity and prayer.

Israeli leaders deliver holiday wishes to Muslims at home and abroad as holy month kicks off.

In first, Israel sends Egypt Ramadan greetings.

The Diplomatic Club join greetings and extend a warmest wishes to all those observing the month of fasting.

Julia Verdel
CEO & Publisher
And the Editorial team



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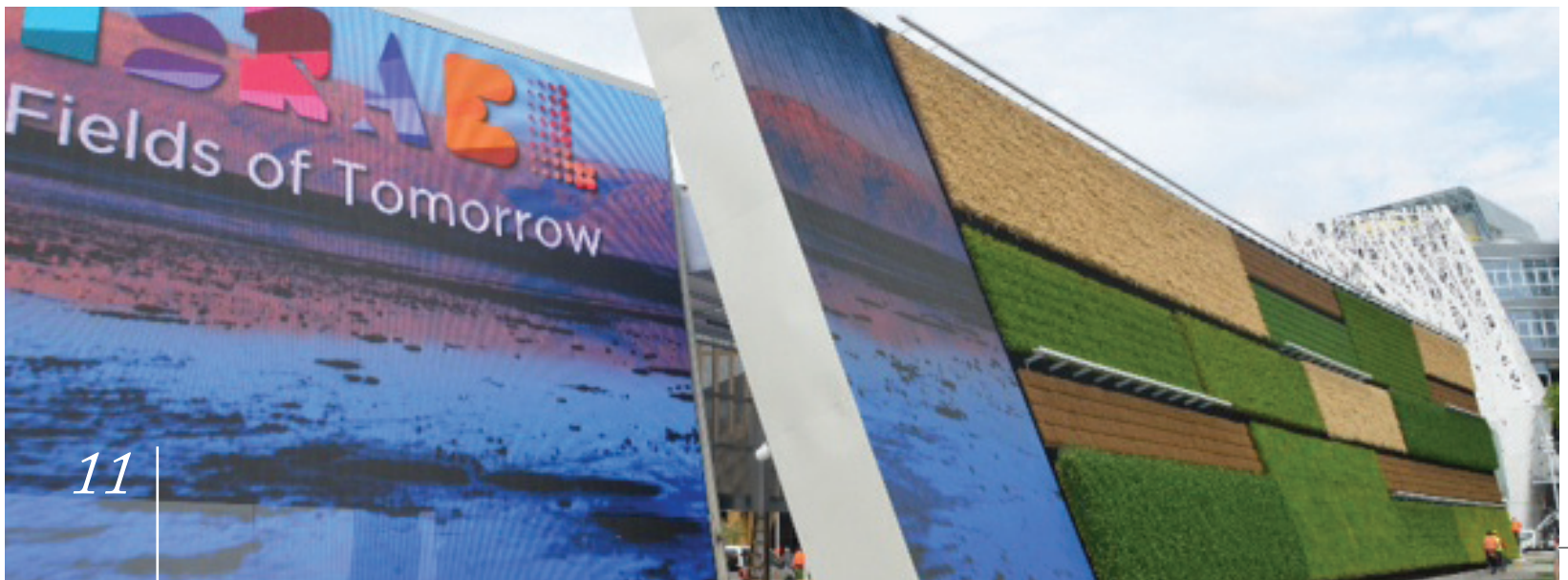
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The Philippines: a vibrant democracy in Asia

PHILIPPINE
AMBASSADOR
TO ISRAEL MR.
NATHANIEL G.
IMPERIAL GAVE
AN INTERVIEW TO
THE DC MAGAZINE



By Julia Verdel

DC: After gaining independence from the American colonizers in 1946, the Philippines emerged as a showcase for democracy in Asia. It had a newly-developing middle class and one of the highest literacy rates in the region. What is the present situation?

The Philippines is one of the largest and most vibrant democracies in Asia. Since attaining independence in 1946, democratic governance was interrupted by 14 years of authoritarian rule, from 1972 to 1986. Filipinos are fierce defenders of democracy as exemplified by the peaceful “People Power Revolution” of 1986, which toppled the rule of Ferdinand Marcos and inspired many countries in Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe to follow suit and reject authoritarianism.

Since then, the culmination of a

series of political and economic reforms implemented by the last five governments have enabled the Philippines to be one of the best performing economies in Asia, and one of the largest (and most interesting) liberal democracies in the world today. Literacy levels remain one of the highest in the region and the middle class has grown considerably, thanks to remittances from the country’s large diaspora and strong growth in the business process outsourcing (BPO) and tourism industries, as well as merchandise and service exports. Although many challenges remain, our democratic institutions have grown firmer roots.

DC: There are three dimensions to Philippine relations with Middle Eastern countries: oil dependence, Muslim separatism, and labor conditions for Filipino contract workers in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states. Please, explain.

These three dimensions, I think, should now be re-examined in a new light. In the energy sector, the Philippines has de-regulated the oil industry, which is now completely in the hands of the private sector. While Persian Gulf oil is still the most cost-effective, Philippine oil companies have more flexibility in deciding where to source oil supply, based on market factors, diversification of sources and political realities. In terms

“By nature, Filipinos are very adventurous, and combined with an innate commitment to provide for their families, they seek places where better opportunities could be found in a globalized world economy”

of electricity generation, close to half of the country’s energy mix is sourced from renewable and clean energy (hydropower, geothermal, wind and natural gas), making us less dependent on oil and coal for energy use.

The new peace agreement signed recently with Muslim separatists is an internal domestic matter. The growing international support for the peace deal has created an atmosphere more conducive to forging closer relations with Islamic countries that helped in the peace process.

There are more than two million Filipinos working in the Middle East, contributing to the Philippine economy, as well as the economies of the host countries in the Gulf, where most of them are working. This relationship, however, is not one-sided and we tend to view it as one of mutual dependence, since the Philippines is not the only one



Ambassador Imperial discussing bilateral ties with President Reuven Rivlin

benefitting from this vital form of labor cooperation. Our workers' skills and qualities are not only held in high regard, they are also in high demand everywhere in the world. It is no accident that we have the most developed support infrastructure and regulatory framework on migrant labor. It is a product of constant policy improvement based on decades of experience in many labor markets.

Our overseas workers are an important asset in ensuring economic resilience, especially in times of regional economic crises. The Department of Foreign Affairs is committed to protecting the rights of Filipino workers and advancing their welfare overseas.

It should be stressed that the Philippines' relations with the Arab world remain comprehensive and multi-dimensional. Economically, the Philippines and the Middle Eastern states are realizing that there are other economic opportunities, aside from oil and migrant labor, that should be explored given the rapid growth and potential of both regions.

DC: The Philippine government's strategy of placing its own citizens in jobs abroad to shore up its economy has been replicated and used by other economically depressed countries such as India and Thailand for the same purpose. What compels Filipinos to seek work abroad, including in Israel?

By nature, Filipinos are very adventurous, and combined with an innate commitment to provide for their families, they seek places where better opportunities could be found in a globalized world economy. This labor diaspora started in the 1970s to raise much-needed foreign exchange for the country, but has since grown as a major pillar of the economy.

Combined with the strong economic fundamentals of the Philippines, annual remittances of more than \$ 25 billion from workers abroad have helped insulate the country from the recent crises in Europe and the US.

Last year, the Philippine economy was the second best performing economy in the Asia-Pacific region. Almost

“There are more than two million Filipinos working in the Middle East, contributing to the Philippine economy, as well as the economies of the host countries in the Gulf, where most of them are working.”

all the economic indicators were positive compared to the previous year. GDP grew by 6.1 % in 2014, merchandise exports went up to US\$ 61.8 billion, FDI grew by more than 60%, inflation and interest rates were low, and the stock market was among the best performing in the world.

The goal of the Philippines has always been to strengthen the domestic economy so that work overseas will no longer be a matter of necessity for our citizens, but of choice. The economic performance of the last two Philippine administrations (2001-2015) have done much to make this situation a reality, through prudent

economic management and sound macro-economic policy, which have greatly improved the country's economic competitiveness ranking, ease of doing business and credit ratings (which is now investment grade).

Political stability has also been re-established in the last five years with President Aquino enjoying strong backing for his campaign for good governance and transparency in government. A lot of big fish are now in jail after being charged with corruption.

DC: Not many people know that there are the bonds that tie the special relationship between our countries. The Philippines was among the 33 countries that supported the creation of Israel and the only Asian country which voted for the UN resolution 181. But positive relationship between the two countries began even before Israel was a state. The Philippines, under President Manuel L. Quezon, allowed Jews to escape the Nazis in the 1930s, granting them visas and opening places for them to settle. Can you comment on this?

Even before achieving independence as a nation-state, the leadership and people of the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic country, displayed extraordinary moral courage during a very dark time in world history when anti-Semitism ran rampant in much of the Western world. The Philippines stood out because both its leadership and its population protested against anti-Semitism in Germany and opened the country's door to Jewish refugees when other countries were expelling them and shutting their doors to keep them out. President Quezon had actually proposed to establish

“The excellent growth of the economy in recent years has shown that it is largely insulated from the economic crises that struck Europe and the US, and the global slowdown.”

a permanent Jewish settlement for 10,000 Jews in Mindanao, but only 1,300 refugees were able to make it to the Philippines because of the Japanese invasion in World War II.

After attaining Philippine independence, this humanitarian act of providing sanctuary to the dispossessed Jews served as a precedent for the country's vote in favor of UN Resolution 181, which created the State of Israel.

DC: The Philippines was among the 138 countries that voted in favor of the United Nations resolution recognizing Palestine as a non-member state. Do you believe that an independent Palestine can live side by side in peace with its neighbors?

From the very beginning, the Philippines has always believed in a two-state solution. The Philippines' votes in the United Nations have always been guided by this basic policy. We hope that both sides will be able to overcome the obstacles and resume the negotiations for long term peace and stability in the Middle East. The Philippines has a very important stake in the Middle East and would like all the major conflicts there to be resolved.

DC: Israelis and Filipinos share common democratic values, freedom and civil rights which were declared in span of Philippines and Israel bilateral

relations. There are about 14 major bilateral Agreements. Your comment please. Our free press is as rambunctious as the one in Israel and our people are just as clannish and family-oriented as Israelis, although Filipinos are less politicized and ideological. We both have a liberal democratic political system that respects the freedom of speech and expression, the right to peaceably assemble, the freedom of conscience and the right to worship.

We have several agreements that serve as a foundation for our bilateral relations since diplomatic ties were established in 1957. We hope to negotiate a bilateral labor agreement this year that will improve the employment conditions of Filipino caregivers and substantially lower the placement fees that they pay to work in here. Last year, we signed a new air services agreement, which is envisioned to improve air links and jumpstart two-way tourism. We also have excellent defense relations as well as a regular policy consultation mechanism at the senior official level to guide our bilateral relations.

DC: Trade and tourism between our two countries increase from year to year.

Could you provide us with figures?

Tourism cooperation is one of the bright spots in Philippine-Israel relations.

We are very pleased with the double-digit jump in Israeli tourist arrivals in the Philippines. Israelis are finally discovering why the Philippines has become a must-see destination with myriad attractions. Palawan, for instance, was recently chosen as the best island in the world by Conde Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards, while the UNESCO Heritage city of Vigan, north of Manila, was



Ambassador Imperial with Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert Del Rosario

voted as one of the New 7 Wonder Cities of the world. Of course I cannot fail to mention the party island of Boracay, which is consistently voted as one of the best beaches in the world. These destinations are perfect for the fun-loving and adventurous Israeli traveler.

I am also encouraging Israeli travel agencies to be more aggressive in marketing pilgrimage tours to the Holy Land from the Philippines, which has a huge Christian population.

In terms of trade and investments, there is a lot of potential. We hope to increase two-way trade through increased business missions, creating awareness in the Israeli private sector about the strong performance of the Philippine economy, and persuading Israeli companies to tie up with business process outsourcing

(BPO) companies in the Philippines. Our BPO sector is one of the most competitive in the world and we invite Israeli companies to lower their operating costs by outsourcing some backroom office functions to the Philippines.

Since the Philippines is chairing and hosting the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in 2015, and ASEAN is finally being integrated into an Economic Community by the end of this year, the Philippines can serve as an important destination, as well as regional headquarters for Israeli companies in Southeast Asia and the greater region.

DC: What do you think are the main foreign policy challenges facing the Philippines?

The single biggest security challenge

to the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia at the moment is China's aggressive behavior in the West Philippine Sea. It is claiming most of the South China Sea, including all or portions of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and islands, of at least four countries – the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia. China's claim based on its so-called "nine-dash line" is excessive, unreasonable and without basis in international law.

China is also unilaterally constructing seven (7) massive artificial islands on submerged reefs and features, as well as building concrete structures on top of them. Some of these maritime features are within my country's EEZ or continental shelf, and the reclamation is in clear violation of Philippine sovereignty. This ongoing

reclamation is also destroying the priceless marine ecosystem of the area and threatening freedom of navigation in the busiest shipping route in the world, not to mention the livelihood of thousands of Filipino fishermen who are being prevented from going to their traditional fishing grounds. This dangerous activity threatens to militarize and destabilize an otherwise peaceful region.

As a peace-loving country that upholds the rule of law, the Philippines has filed an arbitration case with the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to clarify the rights of countries over the waters and maritime features that may be claimed. We hope that as a co-signatory to UNCLOS and as a responsible global power, China will cease its illegal reclamation activities and abide by the decision of the Tribunal expected next year.

DC: The Philippines is the only Christian nation in Asia. About 90% of the population is Christian: about 86 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, 6 percent belong to various indigenous Christian denominations, and another 2 percent belong to well over 100 Protestant denominations. According to the last census, about 5% of the population of the Philippines is Muslim . Is the situation changing?

The Philippines is the largest predominantly Roman Catholic country in Asia. More than 90% of Filipinos adhere to a Judeo-Christian belief system. The Filipino Christian, like the Israeli Jew, considers himself a child of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The connection between our peoples is primordial and the Holy Land and Jerusalem evoke feelings of timeless

“*Since the Philippines is chairing and hosting the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in 2015, and ASEAN is finally being integrated into an Economic Community by the end of this year, the Philippines can serve as an important destination, as well as regional headquarters for Israeli companies in Southeast Asia and the greater region.*”

continuity, spiritual solidarity and hope for both Israelis and Filipinos. The Philippines is a secular state, although it has more than 90 million Christians (including several indigenous Christian religions) out of a population of 100 million. The Catholic population has declined to about 83% while those of Protestant and other Christian groups have increased rapidly. Muslims are a minority and number around five (5) million or 5% of the population. There are also a few hundred Jews living and working in the country. As a democracy, the Philippine Constitution guarantees the freedom to worship and freedom of conscience, and the laws do not give preferential treatment to any faith group or religion.

DC: Does the embassy have strong relations with the Filipino community in Israel?

Certainly. There are now more than 50 Filipino organizations registered with the embassy and we have regular interaction and activities with them. They are a relatively united community and have been very constructive in supporting our development efforts and our programs for the welfare of Filipino workers here. The vast majority of the estimated 25,000 Filipinos in Israel are caregivers who take care of the elderly, the sick and those with disabilities. They are our best ambassadors of goodwill with the people of Israel. They also play an important role in maintaining a larger Christian presence in the region, albeit a temporary one, considering the decimation of Christian communities in the Middle East.

DC: How do you and your family feel in Israel?

The exciting political and security atmosphere in Israel is intoxicating. I especially admire the intellectual caliber and quality of strategic thinking and analyses of Israeli leaders and policymakers which make this country a perfect first ambassadorial posting, for gaining both experience and in-depth insights into the Middle East.

Together with my wife and daughter, I love the healthy food and lifestyle here, the cosmopolitan Mediterranean vibe of Tel Aviv, the Christian holy sites and the many interesting and passionate people we meet everywhere. We make it a point to visit the interesting places around the country and meet people from all walks of life every chance we get.

TOWARDS A NEW LAW OF WAR

By Robert Daniel

From a diplomatic standpoint, a recent Jerusalem conference, "Towards a New Law of War," provided a number of critical talking points and action items for international government-policy makers and opinion makers.

"Towards a New Law of War" was sponsored by Shurat HaDin-Israel Law Center, the Tel Aviv law firm headed by Nitsana Darshan-Leitner. Shurat HaDin has established itself as an international force in fighting terror organizations and securing compensation for victims of terror attacks.

The conference, held May 4 and 5, brought together more than two dozen distinguished international speakers from academia, government, law, media and military affairs.

The key question underlying the conference was how Western democratic armies can function effectively in an era of asymmetrical warfare, when enemy combatants hide their identities and hide themselves in civilian populations.

Specific topics included Human Shields, Targeted Killings, the Rules of Engagement and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Four prominent individuals with military backgrounds – U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David P. Fridovich, former



Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, U.K. Col. Richard Kemp and Israeli Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon – also brought personal perspectives to the proceedings.

Lt. Gen. Gantz discussed the intersection of law, morality and practicality on the contemporary battlefield.

Tough but simple wars are things of

the past, Gantz said. Past commanders did not face human shields or fight in cyberspace. Warriors fought on a single plane in the traditional way, he said. Now, democratic forces, working by a traditional rulebook, face an enemy that relies on civilian deaths as part of its strategy, Gantz said.

For example, in Israel's summer 2014 war in Gaza, the IDF urged civilians to evacuate certain areas.



Hamas forced those people back to their homes and into the line of fire, Gantz said.

He called for new laws to enable democratic forces to operate against unrestrained enemy forces.

Lt. Gen. Fridovich said that U.S. soldiers are deeply trained in laws of war and human rights

He described how from the ground his military groups consulted with lawyers in different operations because the Rules of Engagement changed, in different countries as well as dynamically during operations.

Col. Kemp of the U.K. brought the discussion truly ground-level, focusing on the experiences of specific soldiers. He spoke of one general who for 12 years and through four investigations has been fighting to clear himself of charges stemming from the death of an Iraqi.

The first three inquiries – two by U.K. military investigators and one by civilian police – exonerated him. But now the International Criminal Court is looking at the case, which Col. Kemp called a politically motivated effort.

Six panel discussions were moderated by prominent legal and media figures. The panels parsed issues including how democratic armies can approach Human Shields, or civilians deliberately placed in harm's way; whether and when Targeted Killings are justified; whether Rules of Engagement effectively regulate the modern battlefield; and whether the ICC can carry out its stated mission fairly, particularly regarding Israel.

The conference closed with an address by Minister Ya'alon, who like Lt. Gen. Gantz is a former IDF chief of staff. Israel, he said, faces enormous

pressure when it defends itself. "When it comes to international bodies," like the UN Human Rights Council, "we find ourselves in a war after the war," Minister Ya'alon said.

The IDF "must be very delicate in deciding when [and] where" to bring charges against soldiers after battles. And it must not "automatically [open] a criminal investigation because civilians were harmed," the minister said.

He personalized the IDF's decision-making efforts. He said his first consideration is the "mirror judgment," the idea that he could still look himself in the mirror after approving an operation.



FIELDS *of tomorrow*

A vertical green field, multimedia installations and the stories of industrious people, cutting-edge technologies and thriving companies that made the desert blossom. At Expo Milano 2015 Israel will present the Fields of Tomorrow: a pavilion dedicated both to the tradition of the land of milk and honey and the ultimate technologies in sustainability, agriculture and nutrition. In Milan, Israel showcases its commitment to share the results of expertise and research for a better future.

Israel is a young country with a tradition of three thousand years and an approach projected into the future. In less than seventy years, hard work, research and development

have been able to transform a mostly arid land into fertile terrain. The General Commissioner Elazar Cohen says “Today Israel is one of the leading countries in the field of science and innovation. Investments and opportunities to develop new technologies earned it the features of a real Start-Up Nation”.

Designed by architect David Knafo, realised by Avant Video Systems and built with 100% recyclable materials, the Israel pavilion at Expo Milano 2015 rises right next to Padiglione Italia at the intersection of the main axes Cardo and Decumano. A vertical field mostly planted with wheat, corn and rice welcomes visitors into an immersive visual experience. Inspired by real fields,

the spectacular green wall doesn't accomplish just aesthetic functions but it introduces Vertical Planting a revolutionary technology that allows land and water resources to be spared.

The Israel pavilion is promoted by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sponsored by KKL- JNF, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael - Jewish National Fund.

CONTENTS

The Israel pavilion at Expo Milano 2015 welcomes visitors into an immersive visual experience that unveils some of the ultimate innovative technologies, showcases sustainable projects and narrates the lives of Israeli people.

In the entrance room actors and performers interact with the public whilst videos are projected along the



walls. The first part of the exhibition narrates the story and the lives of three generations of farmers who managed to make the desert bloom. Through memories, images and videos, visitors discover the proactive stubbornness and commitment of Israeli people but also their attitude towards hardship: “difficulties do not create problems but challenges to overtake”.

A section of the exhibition is focused on the KKL-JNF’s Forest. With 240 millions planted trees in the last 70 years, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael - Jewish National Fund has been reforesting Israeli landscapes. KKL-JNF gives a new chance to endangered ecosystems by storing seeds, developing seedling nurseries and planting trees. Thanks to the contributions from Israel and worldwide, KKL- JNF develops environmental and social projects all across its land. Israel is the only country in the world that has more trees today than 100 years ago.

Visitors are then guided into a large dark room where light installations project in the sky a virtual field and videos focused on four cutting-edge stories. Biotechnology: the re-creation of the so-called super wheat, the original and not-yet mutated grain of wheat that was cultivated in Biblical times over three thousand years ago. The other innovations on show are 3.0 agriculture which involves applying satellite and digital technology to fields management, an Israeli irrigation project in Africa and the ultimate zoo-technics for a cow-milking factory in Asia.

At the end of the exhibition guests are welcomed to an open-air relax area. A gourmet restaurant offers fresh and healthy pitstops to eat in or to take-away. The menu includes hummus, falafel, salads and traditional recipes that best represent Israeli cuisine. On the upper floor of the main building a panoramic terrace overlooks the Expo site whilst an event area hosts



conferences, exhibitions and parties. A green space with trees, benches and a cobbled path runs back along the vertical field.

Comment of David Knafo of Knafo Klimor Architects:

“Along Expo history, architecture of pavilions has been a demonstration of innovation and outstanding aesthetics. The Israel pavilion presents a planning approach in which architecture is a vehicle to promote sustainability, protection of natural resources and dedication to social prosperity for the future of mankind. Fields of Tomorrow is a demonstration of Israel’s ability in many domains. Amongst those are the cultivation of rocky land, growth of vegetables in the desert, new methods of irrigation and improvement of seeds quality.

The main elevation of the pavilion is a vertical field composed of modular tiles used for the cultivation



of agricultural crops. Each of these tiles contains a computerised drip irrigation system to optimise the plants growth conditions. Wheat, rice and corn, which are the main sources of vegetarian food, will be grown on the vertical field creating a mosaic of textures, smells and colours. The pavilion has been built with the most advanced green

technology devices including energy saving and water and air treatment. The whole structure will be recycled at the end of the exposition”.

Tel Aviv and Haifa based studio Knafo Klimor Architects was founded by David Knafo and Tagit Klimor in 1980. The practice operates with a diverse staff including architects, urbanists and designers. The studio philosophy is based on several principles that shape every single project. Knafo and Kilmor say “Architecture is a social discipline. Our commitment has a humanistic approach that takes always in consideration both the cultural identity of the local community and participation in redesigning sustainable environments. Through new interpretations of historical heritage the studio responsibly meshes technology and innovation”. <http://www.kkarc.com>

AVS Advant Video Systems

Founded in 1992, AVS is known worldwide as a first-class creator of advanced multimedia solutions. Driven by a spirit of imagination and a passion for perfection, the agency implemented hundreds of projects. AVS’s team of experts collaborates with clients from the initial conception through the finished product. The agency uses visual solutions, the most cutting-edge technologies and develops unusual creative ideas and designs. AVS also produces innovative visual platforms for the corporate arena, including special events, conferences, large-scale shows, stage productions, exhibitions, visitor centres, permanent installations and promotional applications. www.avscreative.com



CELEBRATING ITALY'S NATIONAL DAY IN ISRAEL

Tarantella, opera singing and the Expo event will represent Italy and its cultural heritage during the celebrations of Italy's anniversary as a republic. The Italian diplomatic mission in Israel has set up a program of events entitled "Italy and Israel: EXPOential Partners" which kicked off on June 2 with a tarantella concert by the group Arakne Mediterranea, to take place in Hatachana, Jaffa's old railway station. The event featured an outdoor dance, music and singing performance, according to the best traditions of Salento.

The Italian Embassy in Israel, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Israel-Italy organized a bilateral gathering, entitled: "Body & Mind: the Italian-Israeli Forum on Medicine and Health" included a special ceremony in which the Ambassador of Italy in Israel, H.E. Francesco Maria Talo, bestowed Mr. Sami Sagol, founder of "Sagol Neuroscience Network" with the Honorary title of "Knight of the Italian Republic". Among the guests there were Ruth Arnon from the Weizman Institute and Marta Weinstock Rosin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, both winners of the Israeli Prize for Medicine.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Met Expo Milano 2015 Delegation, during the National Day of the Italian Republic led by Ambassador Francis Talò with the Commissioner Giuseppe Sala.

On June 3, the Italian Embassy gave the traditional reception at the residence of Ambassador.

"Israel and Italy are natural exponential partners, who are building a better future for their countries and the rest of the world," said the Italian Ambassador Francesco Maria Talo.

Representing the government of Israel at the event was Minister of Housing and Construction Yoav Galant. The Israeli Minister marked that Israel and Italy share a common history since ancient times to present time. The President of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, sent greetings by video. He congratulated Italy on its National Day and said, "Italy and Israel cooperate in many fields, and we are proud to be participating in such a special event this year, the EXPO in Milan."

On June 4, to close the celebrations, the Summer Opera Festival was hosted in Masada, with a premiere of Giacomo Puccini's 'Tosca', directed by Daniel Oren. During the reception the diplomatic missions were present and the Milan Expo promoted the Italian culture and its products, in a dedicated space called 'Salotto Italia'.



RUSSIA DAY

On the occasion of the National Day the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Israel Mrs. Yakovlev held a reception on 10th June at Dan Panorama Hotel.

Minister of Immigrant Absorption Zeev Elkin delivered his speech.

Were invited representatives of veteran and public organizations. Event marked the successful development of political, economic and cultural ties between two countries and emphasizing role of Russia in the Middle East.

70th anniversary of Victory in the Second World War was commemorated by exhibition of posters of the war years, "the verge of winning."

Russia Day is the national holiday of the Russian Federation, celebrated on June 12. It has been celebrated every year since 1992. The First Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation adopted the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Russian Soviet Federate Socialist Republic

CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY OF GEORGIA 2015

on the 26th of May, 2015, at the “Hayke Center of the Contemporary Art”, Embassy of Georgia organized a reception in honor of the celebration of the Independence Day of Georgia. 200 distinguished guests gathered in The art gallery with an extraordinary exhibition of modern Georgian art. 30 painters , 130 paintings in different styles and technique. Among the guests were members of the Georgian Jews community, representatives of Israeli legislative and executive branches, members of the business and cultural communities senior journalists and academia members.

The Israeli government was presented by Minister Gila Gamliel. Ambassador of Georgia H.E. Mr. Paata Kalandadze and Israeli Minister Mrs. Gila Gamliel delivered speeches both underlined the friendly and close relationship between the two states: Georgia and Israel.



CONSTITUTION DAY OF POLAND

On the occasion of the adoption of the Constitution of May 3 Ambassador of Poland to Israel HE Mr. Jacek Chodorowicz held reception at his residence

The guest of honor was former (1996-1997) Prime Minister Mr. Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz.



ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN ISRAEL

In a statement from the Eritrean embassy, they told the Diplomatic Club that "over 5,000 Eritreans came to attend Eritrean Independence Day celebration in Israel. For many years, UNHCR and Human Rights Watch were falsely saying Eritreans in Israel left their country due to persecution and human rights abuses by the Eritrean government, yet here they are in full force dancing and partying with the same government they alleged is out to persecute them. Clearly these people were just economic migrants who love their country and government but went to Israel for work to financially support their families back home."

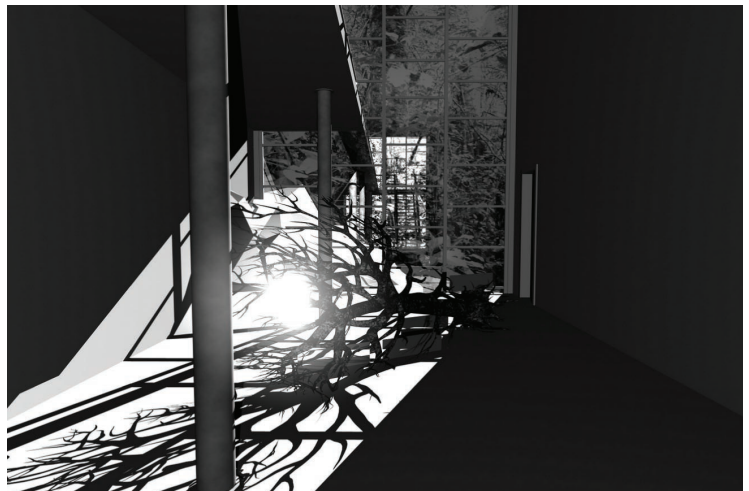


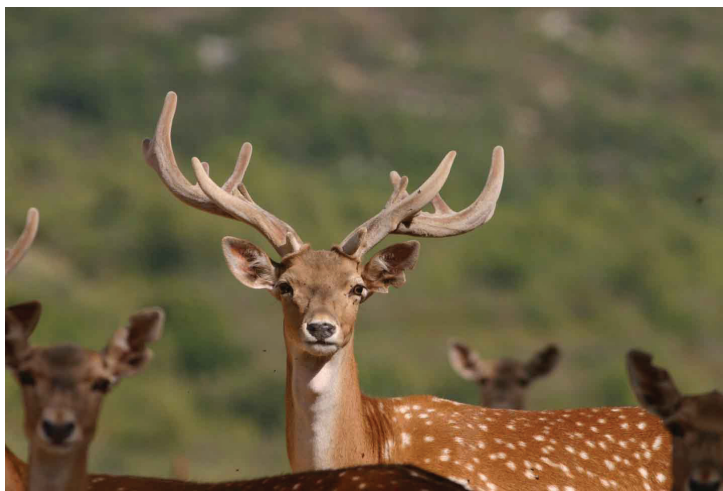
17TH OF MAY - THE NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY

The Norwegian Constitution of 17th May 1814 occupies a special place in Norwegian history. Not only did it lay the foundations for the democratic development, it was also fundamental in providing Norway with the status of an independent country.

The Constitution has been amended more than 400 times since 17th May 1814, but, notwithstanding this, is considered to be the same original document. This makes it Europe's oldest and the world's second oldest written constitution still in operation.

Spring and summer of 2015 marks an upswing in Norwegian cultural activities in Israel. April and May are dedicated to film, June to music and the opening of Ann Lislegaard exhibition at Tel Aviv Museum of Art.





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AND PARKS
AUTHORITY

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לוגו חסות

EUROPE DAY CELEBRATION 2015

“Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan,” proclaimed Robert Schuman, France’s foreign minister, in May 1950. Sixty-five years later, the European Union can mark noticeable achievements, in the maintenance of peace and economic prosperity in Europe, alongside challenges, notably in the rise of Euroskepticism and the search for a cohesive defense and security policy.



The University of Haifa marked Europe Day with...

...a conference that took stock of the EU's major achievements and looming challenges in international affairs, democratic politics and the economy. With distinguished speakers and guests from academia, politics and diplomacy, from Israel, Europe and the United States, the conference explored the European Union in historical perspective as a renewed European order, following the collapse of the old in the First World War; it explored the challenges to democracy and the rule of law within the EU today; it investigated the prospects for European models of capitalism beyond the financial crisis; and it reviewed the EU's international role in security and defense, focusing on Europe’s relations with the Middle East.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev marked Europe Day with...

- the “Europe Festival” Fair, national stands from participating European states where the students were introduced to educational, cultural and tourism opportunities of each country.
- “Students Create,” a collection of works, including jewelry, design objects and clothing, in European styles; and,
- “Yourope,” an exhibition of photos taken by students under the theme “Europe From Your Point of View.”
- The academic conference “Refugees and Diversity in Europe” was organized by the Center for the Study of European Politics and Society in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem marked Europe Day with...

....a presentation by the European Forum. The events included:

- Eurofest - United in Diversity. EU member states and institutions hosted information stands at the Forum of the Mount Scopus Campus;
- The European Forum's academic staff presented the European Studies and German Studies programs and answered questions;
- Meetings with European Ambassadors, and,
- -- a Europe Day Roundtable.
- Europe Day Roundtable



On May 4, EU Commercial and Scientific Counsellors were hosted in the Be'er Sheva Cyber Park for a Cyber Study Day.

The participants met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister's Office, directors of the JVP Cyber Labs and CyberSpark, and two resident startup companies. The Israeli cyber ecosystem and potential EU-Israel cyber cooperation were at the heart of the discussions.

The Head of Delegation, Ambassador Lars Faaborg-Andersen and his wife, Jean Murphy, hosted a reception on the occasion of Israel National Science Day.

Among the special guests at the event was a group of Israeli high-school students, winners of Israel's Young Scientist Prize, who will be traveling to Milan in September to participate in the European Union Contest for Young Scientists.

"The EU's cooperation with Israel in the field of science and technology is thus a win-win situation for both of us," Ambassador Faaborg-Andersen said in his speech.

"We both have a great deal to learn and benefit from each other. It is beyond an issue of numbers. The exposure for both our academia and industry to cutting-edge research [and] the links to leading institutions and to key actors in the private sector are invaluable contributions to both our research worlds and economies".



Tel Aviv University marked Europe Day with...

...a recorded message from Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, delivered at the "Atnachta" event for Science Day on May 12 at TAU. "Israel's cooperation with the EU's programs for research and innovation goes back almost 20 years," Commissioner Moedas said.

"Today, Israel is associated with Horizon 2020, which is the EU's current program, with a budget of almost 80 billion euro [\$89.4 billion]. Israeli researchers have been exceptionally successful in competing for European Research Council grants, which are actually awarded for cutting-edge research.

"The bonds created through research collaboration continue far beyond the lifetime of a particular project. They connect a worldwide network of scientists, to which the EU and Israel contribute enormously."



2015 WOLF FOUNDATION PRIZE AT THE KNESSET

The Wolf Foundation was founded by Dr. Ricardo Wolf (1887-1981), inventor, diplomat and philanthropist, and his wife Francesca Subirana-Wolf (1900-1981), in order 'to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind'. This year the award was awarded for the 30th time since 1978. The award laureates are selected by committees made up of international judges and receive a prize of a hundred thousand dollars in each discipline. If more than one winner is selected the prize will be divided between them. Jessye Norman (USA, 1945) received the art prize for her exceptional performances around the world, her educational activities and dedication to the eradication of global health problems. Murray Perahia (USA, 1947) was the art prize recipient for the fascinating and multifaceted interpretation of music and his impact on the development of a new generation of musicians. Linda Y. Saif (USA, 1947), was the prize laureate in the field of agriculture for the promoting

human and livestock's health through groundbreaking research in virology and immunology. James G. Arthur (Canada, 1944), received the prize in the field of mathematics for his monumental work on the trace formula and his fundamental contributions to the theory of automorphic representations of reductive groups.

Two prize laureates in field of physics were James D. Bjorken (USA, 1934), For predicting scaling in deep inelastic scattering, leading to identification of nucleon's point like constituents, which resulted in identifying specific components within the proton and Robert F. Kirshner (USA, 1949), for forging the path to supernova cosmology through his observations and insights.

In the medical field there were three prize winners: John Kappler (USA, 1943), Philippa Marrack (England, 1945), and Jeffrey Ravetch (USA 1951). Together this trio has contributed much to the understanding of the molecular basis of the immune response in health and disease.

President Reuven Rivlin participated in the award

ceremony. The prize was awarded to nine recipients in recognition of their extraordinary contribution to humanity, and to the good relations between people – without regard for nationality, race, color, religion, sex, or political opinion. Also participating in the ceremony was Education Minister Naftali Bennett, and Dep. Speaker of the Knesset Nachman Shai.

The President said, "The Wolf Prize is presented to you today, for advancements in science and the arts for the benefit of humanity. You have won a prize not just because of your advancements in science, or your excellence in the arts, but because in doing so, you have done so for the sake of humanity, and for the sake of society as a whole."

The President spoke in relation to the calls to enact a boycott of Israeli academic and research institutions. He said, "The global scientific community must quash as a matter of urgency, attempts to politicize science. These boycotts are an affront to the principle of academic freedom and a disaster for science. Those who boycott science and the arts in Israel, negate scientific and artistic independence, and reduce scientific endeavors a political agenda. The loss of academic criteria, in the place of judgment and punishment on the basis of ethnicity, religion or political view, will do untold harm to science, humanities, and social sciences. The award recipients, in coming here, are living proof that science and the arts stand above all boycotts, you demonstrate that there are no borders to the study of humanities when for the sake of humanity. As a servant to the public, to servants of the public, I want to thank you for your tremendous work, for our children and grandchildren, and for all you have contributed to the building of the great spirit of mankind."



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THE JOY OF CREATION

The IVF units at Assuta Ramat HaChayal and Assuta Rishon LeZion help thousands of couples achieve their dream of becoming parents * This is the setting for evolution's most astounding process – the creation of an embryo * Behind every petri dish and test tube are the fertility units' skilled managers and embryologists * Their high-precision work helps them develop great things from small beginnings

Last year, the UK marked the 35th birthday of Louise Brown, the world's first test tube baby, whose birth was made possible thanks to the groundbreaking work of Dr. Robert Edwards. Edwards was able to carry out the conception of a child outside the human body, although he was criticized by both churches and colleagues for “trying to play God”. Now millions of babies have been born through IVF and these treatments have become commonplace as well as highly desirable. Louise Brown is now a proud mother herself, and Prof. Edwards, who sadly died in April last year, was utterly vindicated when he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his pioneering research.

The birth of a healthy baby is not always a guarantee. Around 15% of all couples trying to conceive have difficulties resulting from fertility problems. This means that



about 150 couples per thousand are not able to conceive naturally and instead turn to fertility treatments. At the end of a complex process that is often difficult and frustrating, they understand the mysteries and complexity of the process, and the importance of the IVF units that do everything possible to help them have a healthy pregnancy.

“This is a field involving lengthy processes, and therefore patience is of the utmost importance,” says Dr. Shai Elizur, Director of the IVF Unit at Assuta Ramat HaChayal. “The average number of fertility treatments is quite high – around four rounds of treatment until a successful

pregnancy. When couples begin the process, I explain to them that it's more like a marathon than a hundred-meter sprint. They need to take a deep breath and realize that this is a long process, and we at Assuta do everything we can to make things easier for couples and ensure they get the most out of it.”

Assuta runs two IVF units: one in Ramat HaChayal, Tel Aviv, and the other in Rishon LeZion, which is directed by Dr. Arik Kahane. “The units' activity has steadily increased over the years, and with it the number of successful pregnancies,” says Dr. Kahane. “It's important to note that the overall average decreases as



women's ages rise, yet our average is still very high, both nationally and internationally. In addition, Assuta's two units are among the first in the country to achieve impressive results in terms of the number of pregnancies and births by freezing eggs using the vitrification method, which freezes the eggs within 12 minutes instead of an hour, improving egg survival rates."

Don't Wait to Conceive

"An interesting pattern we've seen in recent years is the increase in patient age. Today, many couples wait longer to start a family due to issues related to finances, careers, and marrying

later. Even single women are now looking to become mothers, usually in their late thirties, but unlike men who produce sperm all their lives, women are limited in terms of the years in which they can conceive," Dr. Elizur explains. "Peak fertility among women is up till age 35, and then it begins to decline. At age 42-45 it is very difficult to get pregnant, and among women aged 44-45 the chances of treatment ending in a healthy pregnancy are only half a percent."

In 2010, the "Egg Donation Law" was passed in Israel, allowing single and married women to freeze their eggs for use if they wish to become pregnant in the future. What does this law mean for IVF units?

"Since 2011," says Dr. Kahane, "around 250 women have had unfertilized eggs frozen at the two Assuta units. The law helps women who have not started a family yet, but want to retain the ability to use their eggs later in life. This is referred to as 'fertility preservation', but the term can be misleading. It's important that women who want to freeze their eggs for these reasons don't think that they can put off pregnancy indefinitely. The best time to freeze eggs is up to age 37, and then the egg freezing and thawing processes become less successful." It must be stressed that simply having frozen eggs does not guarantee that a pregnancy can actually be achieved.

In recent years, say Dr. Elizur and Dr. Kahane, Assuta's IVF units have focused on extensive research and training activities, working closely with the hospital's Clinical Trials Unit. "This year we will present some of these studies at the Israeli Fertility Conference," Dr. Kahane says. "The two Assuta units are considered to

be especially prestigious and are in great demand for professional training purposes. In the last two years, we have been visited by four groups of doctors and embryologists from around the world."

What do people not realize about your work?

"An integral part of the supportive care given in the department is the social worker trained in fertility treatments who helps women and couples go through the process in the best possible way. Both of the units are staffed by nurses with extensive clinical experience who also have an academic background comprising advanced training and courses in fertility treatments. Treatment success stems from the work of a team of experienced doctors and clinical embryologists, as well as nursing staff, ultrasound technicians, and administrative staff – all among the best and most compassionate in the country. The laboratories are equipped with the latest leading technologies, and the units' administrators make it easier for the patients by providing special arrangements as well as a sympathetic ear. Without the teams that work alongside us, it would not be possible to achieve our current quality standard, and so I thank each of them with all my heart. Fertility treatment is a process that requires great mental, physical, and financial resources, and all staff members work to support patients in these areas, as each success or failure also personally affects the staff members who are involved with the patients," Dr. Kahane and Dr. Elizur conclude.

Every Pregnancy is a Miracle

Embryology is a relatively new profession, as less than 40 years have passed since the birth of Louise Brown. "Some doctors treat couples,

and we, the embryologists, are the ‘doctors of the unborn’ – that’s the simplest way to describe our role,” say Michal Yonish and Dr. Pavel (“Pasha”) Itsykson, directors of embryology facilities at Assuta Ramat HaChayal and Rishon LeZion.

How do you manage your relationship with the doctors?

“We work in parallel and in cooperation with the doctors to create the optimal conditions for a successful pregnancy,” Pasha says. “We decide how to fertilize the eggs and then, after the embryos have formed, closely monitor them to ensure they develop normally.”

It could be said that you’re creating embryos.

“We don’t create or produce embryos. Every pregnancy is a miracle from our perspective. We provide the tools and platform, try not to interfere, and hope for a miracle. We let the embryos grow for two to six days and then the doctors place them back in the uterus. After that, it’s out of our hands.”

Recently, Assuta’s IVF labs have been using the EmbryoScope – an advanced, innovative new system that enables more effective selection of the best embryo to be implanted in the uterus. The EmbryoScope is a sophisticated incubator that maintains optimal growing conditions for fertilized eggs while simultaneously taking images and continuously documenting the development of the pre-embryos using an advanced HD camera. Images taken within

the incubator enable monitoring of the pre-embryos without the need to remove them from the incubator. This maintains uniform, constant gas and temperature conditions, reducing the risk of any harm coming to the pre-embryos.

The IVF process begins with a preparatory hormonal treatment that makes the ovaries produce more eggs than usual. The doctor draws follicular fluid, and then the embryologist retrieves the eggs, places them in a special environment, and fertilizes them with sperm cells that have undergone appropriate preparation.

Every day, the embryos are examined in petri dishes. “Because this is a very delicate, dynamic process, every step is immensely significant. The embryos are carefully examined on a precise schedule to ensure they are growing by the book, and select the embryos with the best potential to develop,” Pasha says. “The examination looks at the shape of the embryo, how many cells it has, if they’re the same size, if there are embryo fragments, or if everything is intact and beautiful, and so on.”

The lab’s work is judged to be successful if it results in a pregnancy with one embryo, that ends in the birth of a healthy baby,” say Pasha and Michal. “With young patients up to age 30, we implant one or two embryos in the uterus, in consultation with the attending physician, simply because being pregnant with one embryo has fewer complications. But when it comes to a woman who is older or who has had several

unsuccessful treatments already, we implant more embryos to increase the chances that at least one of them will successfully implant in the uterus. Regarding the number of embryos implanted, clear directives are given in a position paper from IFA, the Israeli Fertility Association.”

What fascinating fact do most people not know?

“Within hours, the egg becomes a fertilized egg, a pre-embryo prior to implantation and then an embryo after implantation. It’s interesting to know that it’s not just the physical condition of the egg that changes, but also its legal status.”

After so many years, does it still excite you?

Pasha: “Absolutely. It’s very exciting when our patients come to show us the babies who began their existence right here in our laboratory. We were the very first to see them and ‘hold them in our hands’ when they were just 100 microns in size. And now they are 3-4 kg of pure joy in a stroller.”

Michal: “I’m moved by the exceptional cases – when patients are successful despite great difficulties, or after trying for many years, when it’s something against all the odds. But I’m also moved by parents of a fifth or sixth child. It’s so exciting that our reputation has spread, so that our patients come from all over the world, including couples from different religions, Christians and Muslims, and everyone has a common goal – becoming parents.”



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**DAYS
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The Rolex brand was founded in 1908 in England. In 1919 the company's headquarters moved to Switzerland, where all costs for watch production were lower at that time, including prices on raw materials, precious metals, spare parts and mechanisms.

An exclusive importer of Rolex watches in Israel is Euro-Asia Ltd

The roots of Euro-Asia Ltd take us to Bolivia, South America in 1947 by the Peisers, a Jewish immigrant family who had fled Germany in 1939 on the eve of the World War II.

The factual history of the company began much earlier when Fritz Peiser sent his 14 year old son Horst Peiser to study optics and watchmaking at a watch shop of a Jewish German immigrant in Cochabamba, the second biggest city of Bolivia.

Later on, in 1947 when a great deal of experience and knowledge was earned throughout the years of studies, practice and work in watchmaking crafts, the father and the son decided to open their own watch repair shop. This small business gradually grew into a company which was handling imports of watches from Germany and Switzerland to Bolivia.

In 1971 Horst Peiser made a decision to repatriate to Israel. By that time he himself had already a family with three children. It certainly took a while until the company could resume its activity on import of watches to Israel, as the family first of all needed to learn the Hebrew language and to arrange their life in Israel. Thus, Euro-Asia Ltd was re-established in Israel on 11.06.1972.

Horst Peiser's eldest son Danny

also joined the business after having finished his Army service in 1978. He was actively involved in all company's operations, including coordination of purchases and sales, thus gaining his own experience and refining his skills. In 2000 Danny Peiser took over the management of the company and is presently running the company.

Three generations have been contributing to the company's progress, success and prosperity.

The Euro-Asia Service Centre is equipped with a modern laboratory, constructed according to the guidelines, standards and supervision of Rolex. It's a well-known fact that Rolex watches are frequently replicated, therefore the Euro-Asia Service Center, along with its other diverse services, provides an authenticity test and certificate.

Euro-Asia watchmakers are periodically sent to Geneva for professional training and upgrading at the Rolex manufacturing plant.

Rolex really isn't like any other watch brand. In fact, the privately held, independently run entity isn't like most other companies. There is a very real mystique behind the manufacture because they are relatively closed and their operations aren't public. The brand takes the concept of Swiss discreetness to a new level, and in a lot of ways that is good for them.

Rolex makes their own gold. While they have a small handful of suppliers that send them steel (Rolex still works the steel in-house to make all the parts), all the gold and platinum is made in-house. 24k gold comes into Rolex and it is turned into 18k yellow, white, or Rolex's Everose gold (their non-fading version of 18k rose gold). The philosophy at Rolex seems to be very pragmatic, if a

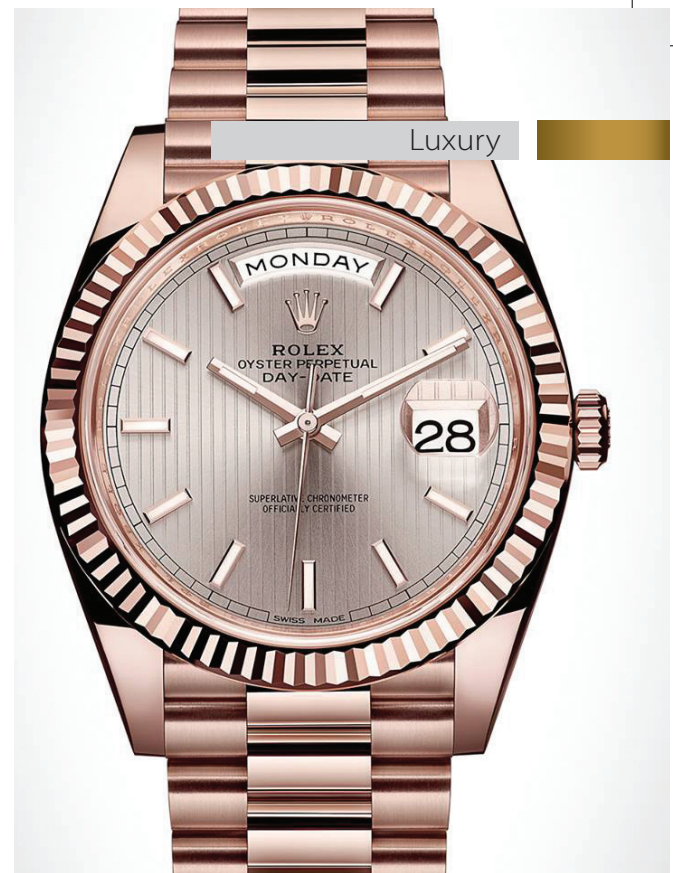
human does it better, then let a human do it, if a machine does it better, then let a machine do it. Each Rolex watch movement has a unique serial number that is photographed and matched with a case that also has a different unique serial number. In the future when the watch is serviced, a watchmaker can learn everything there is to know about it. Rolex produces almost a million watches a year. Rolex is however interested in quality and efficiency.

WHY WOULD ANYONE BUY A ROLEX WATCH?

Or for that matter any such high end watches? It's true that a Rolex watch shows the time like most other watches (although with better movements), but having a Rolex watch means a lot more than just having an instrument that shows time.

- Rolex is a well-known and trusted brand of luxury watch.
- Rolex is a sign of achievements, a prize of accomplishment.
- People appreciate the high quality of the watch.
- People wear Rolex watches to feel good about themselves.
- People wear Rolex watches as part of their success.
- People find them aesthetically pleasing as they like the designs.
- People appreciate the artistry that goes into them.

US Presidents used to wear nice Swiss watches. Rolex watches in particular were favored by many US Presidents, beginning with President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Yellow Gold Rolex Datejust. President Lyndon B. Johnson favored the Yellow Gold Rolex Day-Date. This watch later became known as the "Presidents' watch" due to Johnson's (and some



say Eisenhower's) fondness for it. President Ronald Reagan wore a Stainless Steel Rolex Datejust.

Nicolas Sarkozy is famous for his impressive watch collection.

He also owns Stainless Steel 40mm Rolex Daytona.

Tony Blair was known as a relatively modest man. However, we know that he wore a Stainless Steel Rolex, either a GMT or a Submariner. The Rolex is very understated in stainless steel, but still meets the requirements of a traditional power watch.

This list could be continued.

The Euro-Asia Service Center is located upstairs of the Rolex Show shop in Tel Aviv in Ibn Gabirol St.36 (corner of Shaul Ha-Melech Blvd, 1). 03-6857520. Rolex watches are available on Rolex Show stores and boutiques. For more details, please log on to www.euro-asia.co.il or Facebook – Euro-Asia





A BELGIAN-ISRAELI GASTRONOMY DUE

25 JUNE 2015, AT 20.00



Save the date for a very special event: White Night Europa, 25 June 2015, at 20.00, Rothschild 1 Plaza. Eight EU member states, among them Belgium, will participate in a “Delishow” – a combined gastronomy and fashion show. A large stage with an open kitchen and a catwalk will be set up on Rothschild 1 Plaza for the use of chefs, designers and models. Four pairs of Israeli-European chefs will work each with a fashion designer to create a joint dish/fashion item. Belgian chef Davy de Pourcq will pair up with Israeli chef Orel Kimchi, while Lithuanian designer Zydrune Grigonyte will create a fashion item, inspired by their jointly prepared

dish. Davy de Pourcq, chef of “Volta” restaurant in Ghent is considered one of the best emerging chefs of Belgium. His cuisine style is characterized by the use of fresh vegetables, herbs and even flowers that he picks in his garden. He is one of the “Flanders Kitchen Rebels”, a group which brings together about twenty top chefs, under

the age of 35, with a great passion for Flemish gastronomy and fresh local products. They are “rebels” because they do things their own way and put innovation and daring at the top of their priorities. Orel Kimchi, the chef and co-founder of hip Tel Aviv restaurant Popina, has worked in the finest restaurants in Israel and the world. The collaboration between these two young chefs promises to be a smashing culinary event.

The Belgian Culinary festival which took place two consecutive years at the Tel Aviv Namal, and met with great success, has given the Israeli public the opportunity to taste some

of Belgian traditional dishes. True, Belgium is reputed worldwide for the amazing variety of its beers, its delicious chocolate, its “frites”. But there is much more to Belgian cuisine than that. In fact, Belgian cuisine is considered to be one of the finest in the world and it is a well-known fact that the country has one of the highest densities of Michelin-starred restaurants in Europe.

But you don’t need to go to a sophisticated restaurant in order to enjoy a delicious and original meal. Be it fancy food, or homely comfort food which Belgians appreciate very much, it is served in a multitude of local restaurants, charming inns and castles throughout the countryside. For such a small country, there is a surprising amount of provincial diversity and each region in Belgium is a paradise for food lovers.

Belgian rich gastronomy is a reflection of the many traditions that have taken root in the country through the generations. The art of food in Belgium is inherent to its culture. It is a way of life, which testifies to the importance attached by the Belgian people to conviviality and to the pleasures of the table.



FOLK-ROCK GROUP, COCOROSIE ARE HEADING TO TEL AVIV FOR ONE CONCERT IN JULY 2015.

Folk-rock group, CocoRosie are heading to Tel Aviv for one concert in July 2015. CocoRosie formed in Paris in 2003 by two sisters from the US who had not met for many years. What they created has been termed by some as the ‘freak folk’ genre, unique and somewhat twisted sounds which include hints of electronic, opera, and cabaret. CocoRosie are heading to Tel Aviv for their first concert on July 13, 2015 which will take place at the Geshen Theater. Tickets are on sale now.



BOBBY MCFERRIN AND CHICK COREA, TWO LEGENDS FROM THE WORLDS OF JAZZ, WILL PERFORM FOUR CONCERTS IN ISRAEL

Bobby McFerrin and Chick Corea, two legends from the worlds of jazz, will perform four concerts in Israel in July 2015 as part of their world tour. Bobby McFerrin, the ten-time Grammy Award winning musician's most famous hit is the 1980's song "Don't

Worry Be Happy", and he returns to Israel three years after his last concert here. Chick Corea is one of the world's most influential jazz pianists, described as one of the most important jazz piano voices to emerge in the post-John Coltrane era. Bobby McFerrin and Chick Corea will play four concerts in Israel, two in the Northern-Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya's Zappa Club, one in Rishon LeZion, just south of Tel Aviv in the Live Park Amphitheater, and one in Binyamina, half way between Tel Aviv and Haifa, in the Shunki Amphitheater. Bobby McFerrin and Chick Corea's concerts will take place between July 22-24, 2015. Ticket information will be updated shortly.

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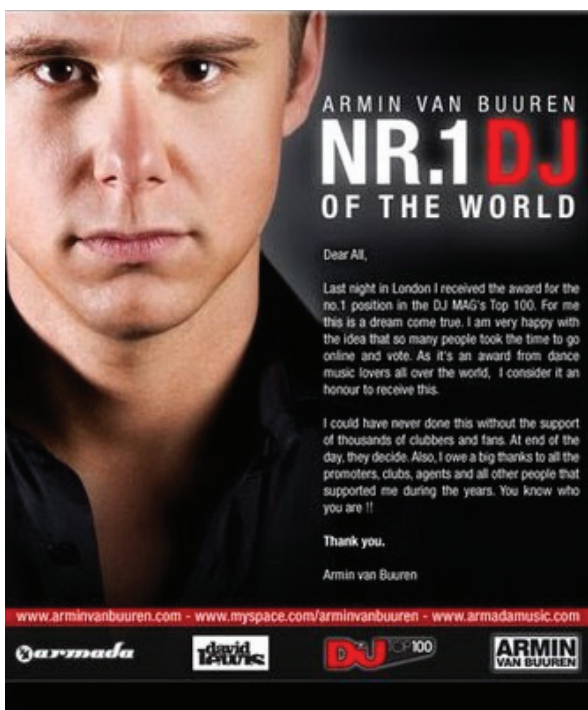
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with yet another award winning production: Quidam! The enchanting presentation combining the spectacular and the artistic has already been embraced by over 10 million fans worldwide. The highly anticipated run at Nokia Arena in July 2015 demonstrates the ongoing commitment of Cirque du Soleil to the enthusiastic Israeli audience. The first ever presentation in Israel, Alegria, wowed almost 100,000 spectators and Quidam is aiming to achieve nothing less, opening August 6th until August 16th. Nokia Arena will be converted into a theatre to accommodate the original Cirque du Soleil production of Quidam as experienced by enthusiastic audiences around the world. Quidam celebrated its world premiere in Montreal under the Big Top in April 1996. Since then, the acclaimed production has maintained its overwhelming appeal and played to over 10 million patrons internationally by embarking on a new journey in arenas.



ARMIN VAN BUUREN TEL AVIV - FRI, 7/3/15, 4:30 PM HRS THE ISRAEL TRADE FAIRS & CONVENTION CENTER

Armin van Buuren is a Dutch trance producer and DJ. Between 2007 and 2010, he was voted number one in DJ Magazine's annual top 100 list of the most popular DJs. In the 2011 list, he ranked in second place. Since 2001, Van Buuren has hosted a weekly radio show called A State of Trance, which claims to have around 15 million weekly listeners in 26 countries; this would make it one of the most listened-to radio shows in the world. His 2008 studio album, Imagine, entered the Dutch album chart at #1, a first for a dance artist in Dutch music history.

METAL EVENTS IN ISRAEL 02/07/2015



You know what's the main problem with the Israeli METAL scene? There are not enough people at live shows. And you know why there are not enough people at live shows? Because they are not informed when events take place and where... While solving the second thing is difficult, the first problem has an easy solution: METAL METAL's events calendar – with all the METAL shows you must know about!!! Want To Advertise An Event?!



BRITISH ALT-ROCK BAND IN ISRAEL

British alt-rock band, Suede are heading to Israel for a concert in Tel Aviv in July 2015. Suede's sound is one of the most definitive of the 90's with their singles 'Beautiful Ones', 'Animal Nitrate', 'Saturday Night', and 'She's in Fashion', among the most successful of the decade. Multi-award winners, Suede will return to Tel Aviv, performing one concert in the city at the Yad Eliyahu Arena on July 30, 2015. Ticket information will be available soon.

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