



Entrepreneurship, Employment and Innovation Enhancement for Local Development in the Startup Nation

A professional tour organized by the Weitz Center for Sustainable
Development

The Israeli experience



The state of Israel, often referred as the "Start-Up Nation", has been recognized as a global leader, leveraging innovation, creativity, competitiveness and entrepreneurship for development. Israel has the most numerous pool of companies listed on NASDAQ, challenging the USA (Sener and Singer, 2011). The country has the second highest concentration of high tech companies in the world, after the well-known Silicon Valley and the highest number of startups per capita. And until now, Israel has succeeded in maintaining a stable rate of growth and overcome world economic crisis challenges.

Different factors contribute to foster its very dynamic economy. Israel is the residence of numerous researchers, and the country ranks first worldwide for the number of scientists for 10,000 workers, while its scientific research is ranked third worldwide (MOITAL, 2005). Israel invests largely on Research & Development, this sector making 4.7% of GDP (National Science foundation, 2010). Israel therefore ranks first worldwide in terms of R&D investments. Additionally, its venture capital market is the second largest worldwide (European Investment Bank).



However, these factors could not have brought sustainable development at regional and local levels without adequate policies and support systems for innovation processes and entrepreneurship leverage to local development context.

Learning objectives

In this context, the professional tour will introduce the participants to the ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship and employment enhancing:

- The role of the government to foster research and development
- Academia and Industry linkages: Transfer Knowledge Company, applied research and other cooperation
- Venture Capital in Israel
- Support systems from idea to commercialization: IPR protection, incubators, co-working spaces, SME support centers and entrepreneurship programs
- Human capital: the role of education and harnessing of local assets
- Innovation and entrepreneurship: impact on development processes at local levels
- Startups involved in the development space, from renewable energy to water management practices

Visits to Holy Sites



Israel holds in its territory sites considered sacred by the three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. During the professional tour, participants will tour the ancient streets of Jerusalem and the stunning scenery surrounding the Sea of Galilee. Throughout the trip, participants will have an opportunity to go back to biblical times, connect with the deep spirituality of the sites and take away an unforgettable experience in the 'Holy Land'.

The professional tour includes:

- Field visit and professional meetings;
- Pickup from airport and complete transport to accommodation & meetings;
- Entrance to sites and locations;
- Professional guides;
- Health Insurance;
- Half Board pension (Breakfast and lunch);
- Accommodation in 4 star hotel in the city center of Tel Aviv
- Tourism to Jerusalem and Nazareth

For a tentative program, further information and cost estimates, please

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