

Rehovot, December 2011.

Dear colleagues and friends,

On the eve of the New Year we are most pleased to renew our contact with our graduates wishing you good health, happiness, prosperity and peace.

As always, we are happy to share with you, all that's going on in our Center, as well as our plans for the next year.

Seminar in Memoriam of Prof. Raanan Weitz

On December 19, we conducted the yearly seminar on "Promoting Sustainable Development". During the seminar, the Award of the sixth "**Raanan Weitz Integrated Development Projects Competition**" was granted to the winners Mr. Elmer V. Sayre and Mr. Jed Christian Z. Sayre from the Philippines, for their project on: "Using the Rehovot Approach to close the loop between sanitation, food security and biodiversity improvement as a means to alleviate extreme poverty: The WAND foundation experience". The Project was selected out of 49 projects from 13 countries that participated in this year Competition.

Capacity Building

During 2011 we conducted a large number of capacity building activities:

- **Training Courses**

- 11 international training activities (6 in English, 4 in Spanish & 1 in Russian)
The courses took place within the framework of MASHAV, 3 of them in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and others in collaboration with Israeli Ministries, UNDP-UNEP and WIPO. Dr. Oscar Roldan lectured in 2 Spanish courses, on behalf of UN-HABITAT Latin America
- 4 courses for Sudanese refugees living in Israel
- A module in a course on "Glocal Development" of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- A course on "Rural Development" in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

- **Study Visits**

8 delegations arrived for Study Visits in Israel learning a variety of subjects:

- India (2 groups) – "Regional Development, High-Tech Agriculture" & "Innovative Irrigation Solutions in Israel"
- Kenya – "Water Technologies and Coastal Tourism for Local Economic Development" (2 groups) and "Clean Technologies for Local Economic Development" (1 group)
- Nigeria – "The role of Higher Education Institutions in Entrepreneurship Promotion" (1 group) & "Regional Development, High Tech Agriculture, Innovative Irrigation Solutions in Israel including WATEC Exhibition" (1 group)
- Sierra Leone (1 group) - "Local Economic Development".

International Activities

In 2011 the Weitz Center expanded its international links

The Center participated in the following activities:

- February: Presentation on "Municipal Capacities as Leverage for Development", World Summit of Mayors International Conference 2011 in Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria - Yossi Offer
- March: Presentation of an Israeli case study: "From Training to Learning Institutions"; Expert Group Meeting - Strengthening Training Institutions, organized by UN-HABITAT, HIS and Danida Fellowship in Nairobi, Kenya - Yossi Offer
- September: Presentation on "Universities' Assets as Leverages for Urban Development in Central Cities and Peripheral Towns in Israel"; in International Seminar on "Challenges in Urban Planning: an Innovative Role of the Universities"; Organized by Yaroslavl State University, PG Demidova, the Moscow office of the Kennan Institute, Yaroslavl, Russia - Yossi Offer
- October: Participation at the Roundtable on "Learning Cities" organized by UN-HABITAT and the Spanish Secretary of State for Housing and Urban Policy, Barcelona, Spain - Yossi Offer
- November participation in a Workshop on "Policy, Legal and Contractual Framework in Electricity Business" in Nigeria - Amit Krispin
- December: participation in a training on "Sustainable Urban Regeneration", IUTC International Urban Training Center, in partnership with UN-HABITAT and Bonn University, Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea - Yossi Offer and Yoel Siegel.

Miscellaneous

- Mr. Itzhak Lax, Attorney was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Weitz Center. We wish him success in his work
- A delegation of Ministers of Guatemala visited the Center and discussed ways of collaboration
- A delegation of Mayors and High Officials from LVRLAC – Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation conducted a professional visit on "Municipal Mechanisms for Strategic Development"
- We are continuing our collaboration with WUJS (World Union of Jewish students) – We are thankful to Alex Fisberg, a young student from Brazil who has volunteered for internship for three months in our Center
- The Weitz Center nominated 18 freelance representatives to coordinate study visits in Israel. The countries in which there are representatives are: Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Tanzania, Togo & Zambia.

Activities for 2012

Training Program

Our training program scheduled within the framework of MASHAV for 2012 is as follows:

Title	Language	Dates	Number of days
Mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages into planning and development	English	9.1-2.2.2012	25
Integrated approach to upgrading poor urban areas	English	12.3-5.4.2012	25
Integrated rural development for Indigenous communities	Spanish	30.4-24.5.2012	25
Policies, strategies and support systems for rural revitalization	English	To be published in our Website	25
Promoting LED through strategic planning	Spanish	To be published in our Website	25
Tools for promoting LED (for Mayors)	Spanish	To be published in our Website	10
Local and regional competitiveness	Spanish	To be published in our Website	25
Municipal platforms for local strategic development	English	To be published in our Website	25
Environmental management frameworks and tools against climate change	English	To be published in our Website	25

Please recommend suitable candidates for the trainings and study visits and share with us any relevant information of your country's development priorities and projects in which we could cooperate.

You can always find updated information of our activities in our Website www.weitz-center.org.

Study Visits

Those interested in organizing groups in countries please contact Mrs. Miriam Eger Deputy Director of the Weitz Center at: dsc@netvision.net.il or Ms. Amandine Desille at: dsc3@netvision.net.il.

Persons interested in Study Visits in countries where they can contact representatives will be referred to them; others will receive direct information.

Do not forget to update us with your current details (telephone, fax, e-mail address) using our e-mail: training@netvision.net.il, including your professional/public development and ask your fellow graduates to do the same.

We wish you and your families a Happy New Year!

Best regards from all of us.



Julia Margulies
Director General