



PROF. MENAHEM BEN-SASSON

President, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem welcomes all of you - leaders in your fields - to the Israeli Presidential Conference.

The Hebrew University is a proud partner in organizing this conference, which creates an essential connection between visionary science and serving the common good. This is a natural partnership, for the university shares with the presidency, with President Shimon Peres at its helm, a spirit of pioneering and innovation.

As he celebrates his 90th birthday, President Peres's personal history is intertwined with the history of the State of Israel. No living person is a more apt symbol of the country's past. Yet, as expressed by the conference's theme - Facing Tomorrow - President Peres is an untiring source of inspiration for progress towards a better future. In this way, he is a metaphor for the Jewish experience: rich in history yet always evolving and looking forward.

As President Peres has shown, in order to succeed we must be willing to ask hard questions, and create the answers. This hunger to do things better explains the disproportionately large number of discoveries in all areas of endeavor by scientists in Israel. This same spirit of questioning and innovation gave rise to Israel's vibrant and boisterous democracy and its remarkable emergence as the "start-up nation."

Hebrew University scientists play a central role in driving these innovations, for the betterment of Israeli society and the benefit of all humanity. Indeed, as one of the world's leading research institutions and as Israel's leading university, the Hebrew University is truly "the start-up of the start-up nation."

We are proud to join the President in his commitment to learning from the past while creating a better tomorrow - in fields as diverse as alternative energy, brain science, agriculture, and indeed all aspects of human existence.

May you take from this conference the blessings of a city which, throughout the generations, has been a world center for learning, creativity and inspiration.

Sincerely,

Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson
President, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem