

INTRODUCTION

Facing Tomorrow 2013, the fifth annual Israeli Presidential Conference inspired by President Shimon Peres, took place at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, June 18-20, 2013. Co-hosted by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Conference program created an outline bringing together three parallel yet interactive tracks: the global, Jewish and Israeli tomorrow. The topics that embodied these tracks were selected for their extraordinary influence in shaping our tomorrow.

This year's conference honored the 90th birthday of President Peres, which opened the intellectually enriched three days. The Conference assembled a record number of more than 5,000 participants from Israel and abroad including foremost economic, political, intellectual, and hi-tech leaders. In addition to the present participants, millions of viewers enjoyed the various sessions via television, the website and social media sites from some 150 countries.

We had the privilege of hosting the President's Award which was presented to President William J. Clinton. He was joined at the Conference by distinguished statespersons including the Quartet Representative for the Middle East and former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, Prince Albert II of Monaco, Foreign Minister John Baird of Canada, Vice President Michel Temer of Brazil, President Bujar Faik Nishani of Albania, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Governor Rick Snyder of Michigan, Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago, Deputy PM Kostyantyn Gryshchenko of Ukraine, Fmr. Norwegian PM Kjell Magne Bondevik; Fmr. President of Mexico, Professor Ernesto Zedillo, Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, Dr. Rodrigo Vergara, Executive Director of the UNWFP, Ertharin Cousin and Fmr. President of Peru, Alejandro Toledo.

Joining the Conference's honored guests from overseas were Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Minister of Finance, M.K. Yair Lapid, the Governor of the Bank of Israel, Professor Stanley Fischer, Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, and Mayor of Beer Sheva, Ruvik Danilovich.

Among our esteemed speakers were Nobel Laureates Professor Daniel Kahneman, Professor Richard Axel, and Professor Dan Shechtman; leading scholars and thinkers such as Ayaan Hirsi-Ali, Professor Dan Ariely, Professor Dan Gilbert, Professor Michael Walzer, and David Axelrod; Leading hi-tech and media figures as Tim Armstrong of AOL, Richard Gelfond of IMAX, Weili Dai of Marvel, Robert LoCasio of Liveperson, Marc Benioff of salesforce.com,

John Chambers of Cisco, Maurice Levy of Publicis Groupe, Phil Griffin of MSNBS, Richard Plepler of HBO and leading entertainers Sharon Stone, Robert De Niro, and Barbra Streisand.

The Conference attempted to focus its discussion on the role of humankind in the shaping of tomorrow. The human factor was a leading component in the creation of the content and acted as a corner stone for each and every discussion.

The Conference tackled various issues in geopolitics, economics, and science and hi-tech. It also focused on Jewish and local Israeli issues as well as the humanities.

In geopolitics, the discussion addressed regional and world issues as well as examining the rise of political Islam and tomorrow's warfare and war strategies. The economic sphere focused on both local and international markets. Within these debates the idea of economic principles vs. social values was also discussed.

The science and hi-tech sphere discussed various issues including the brain and our future understanding of it, personalized medicine, the way we perceive our surroundings, classical and new media, and hi-tech developments and advancements.

The Jewish sphere focused its discussions on *Tikkun Olam*, which inspires many of our speakers. It also debated Jewish life on campuses, Jewish communities outside of Israel and the US, the future of Jewish leadership, and the status of women in Judaism.

The Israeli sphere addressed Israeli society and bridging gaps within it as well as a session on arts and cultures, which take on the task of bridging gaps. In addition, we spoke about the impact of the recent discoveries of gas.

Lastly, the humanities sphere approached world issues such as education, ecology, media, and more.

The Conference hosted over 75 hours of discussions, consisting of six plenary sessions, 24 panels, three roundtables and seven master classes. We were educated and enlightened by some 180 speakers, with almost half from abroad, from 25 different countries as close as Jordan and as far away as Australia.

In the six summary papers presented below, an attempt has been made to capture the essence and some of the excitement that went part and parcel with the Conference. We have endeavored to provide readers a glimpse of the spectrum of issues canvassed during the Conference as well as the conclusions that were reached. The Conference

highlighted the major questions we must face in our quest for a better tomorrow. Indeed, this summary provides the reader an opportunity to view an overall picture of the comprehensive matrix created during the Conference.

No summary however detailed, can do justice to the richness of the presentations and deliberations that took place over two and half days of the Conference, on and off record. The discussions that erupted in the lounges, corridors and in taxis home reflected the liveliness of the discussions on stage.

We are pleased to present you our VOD library on the Conference website (<http://2013.presidentconf.org.il/en/>) and share videos of Conference sessions, where one may engage the ideas that surfaced in the various forums and the pursuant discussions.

We hope that the array of discussions and the diverse topics presented have played a role in deciphering the step forward in the fascinating journey toward a better tomorrow.