THE AKKO CONVENTION ON URBANISM – the Akko Citadel, November 17th – 19th, 2015

In a rapidly urbanizing world UN HABITAT, the global agency responsible for “Human Shelter”, is calling on all its member states to develop and implement national urban policy. In response to this call, we are convening the AKKO URBANISIM CONVENTION, to bring stakeholders from all relevant sectors and disciplines together, with the goal of establishing a policy process and a platform for urban dialogue.

Convention Program (changes may occur)

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>17.11</td>
<td>9:30-10:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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|       | Parallel Sessions 10.30-12.00 | Urban Tactics  
*Chair*: Arch. Irit Zofef Netaniahu, Wizo, Haifa  
Urban “Acupuncture” Interventions that Generate Urban Change: Centers of Sustainability, the Jerusalem Balcony Project, Tel Aviv Central Bus Station |
|       |               | Urban Welfare, Health and Education  
*Chair*: Dr. Yoel Segal  
The Interface between the Social and Physical Fabric of the City.  
*Participants*: Healthy Cities’ Network, Ministry of Welfare, Haifa Municipality… |
|       |               | Urban Sustainability  
*Chair*: Milka Carmel, Dep’t Local Government, Ministry of Environment  
The interface between economics, society and the environment forms the major axis of urban life. Round Table discussions with: Tami Gavrieli and Valery Brachia, Jerusalem Institute Yoav Egozi, Michal Lahav, Holon Municipality Prof. Erel Avineri, Afeka College. Esti Pilus, Ashdod Municipality Tal Erez, Bezalel. Directors of Sustainability, Tel Aviv, Kfar Saba Naomi Tsur, Chair of the Israel Urban Forum |
|       |               | MedCities: *Chair*: Arch. Sharon Yoav-Ayalon  
Viewing Cities through the Prism of Tradition and History  
The session will take place in the Ramchal Synagogue in the Old City of Akko. It will include a tour of religious institutions in the Old City.  
Dr. Merav Aharon Gutman, Dr. Nili Shechori, Dr. Leah Shamir Shin’an. Dr. Moriel Ram |
|       |               | Tool Box for Urban Renewal: *Chair*: Einat Ganon of the Dep’t of Urban Renewal, Ministry of Building and Housing.  
Urban Renewal in Practice – new tools, such as the Open Block, Sustainable streets, Partnership of Users etc.  
Arch. Mandy Rosenfeld, Arch. Ady Levi Trau, Arch. Uriel Babchik, Shachar Solar, Dr. Nava Keiner Persov, Prof. Naomi Karmon |
|       | 12:00-13:30   | Lunch  
*Founding Meeting of the Israel Urban Forum* |
|       | Parallel Sessions 13.30-15.00 | The Creative City: *Chair*: Chair, Arch. Tagit Klimor  
Meet the newest contributor to Urbanism: The Artist as a City-Maker, looking at case studies in Israel. |
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| 18.11      | **Cities for All Ages:** Chair, Dr. Chana Moran  
This session will address the challenges in city-making that meets the needs of all age groups, and facilitates interaction among them.  
Avi Cohen, Director General of the Ministry for Social Equity  
Ofir Pines, Head of the Institute for Research of Local Gov’m’t.  
Hanna Hertzman, Director General, City of Holon  
Shmuel Yelma, Director of Interdisciplinary Dep’t, JDC.  |
|            | **The Challenge of Densification and Maintenance:** Chair: Ms. Ayelet Kraus, Ministry of Building and Housing  
In preparation for HABITAT III, the Ministry of Housing invites you to a session of consultation on density and maintenance in cities of the future.  
Arch. Sheri Klaus, Dr. Talia Margalit, Hagit Na’ale Yosef, Daniela Paz Erez, Shahar Solar, Head of Planning, Ministry of Environment, Arch. Haim Cohen |
|            | **Economic Development – Local and Shared**  
**Chairs:** Dr. Gili Baruch, Shatil, Ohad Segev, CEO Akko municipality  
|            | **Urbanization and Conservation – The Interface between City and Forest.**  
**Chair, Pinhas Kahana, JNF**  
**David Maddox** – “Branding Green Urbanism” - keynote speaker, introduced by Naomi Tsur, Conference Chair  
Anat Gold, JNF  
Arch. Vardit Tsurnamel  
Chanoch Tsoref, JNF |
|            | **Academia and the Community:** Chair, Dr. Rachel Kalush, Technion, Haifa  
This Panel will discuss Community Based Learning as a tool to generate partnerships between academia and the city in the advance of urbanism  
Prof. Marc Schlossberg, University of Oregon  
Ruth Donag, Social Hub, Technion  
Arch. Avigail Dolev, Director General, Nesher Municipality  
Sheli Hefets, Technion |
| 15:30-20:00| **Plenary - Urban Renewal - International and Israeli Perspectives**  
**Opening Remarks:** Minister of Housing, M.K Yaakov Galant  
Mayor of Akko, Mr. Shimon Lankri  
Chair of the Jewish National Fund, Mr. Danny Atar  
Chair of Israel Urban Forum, Ms. Naomi Tsur  
The Promise of Good Neighborhoods – **Mindy Turbov** – HUD, US  
“The Israeli City of the 21 Century” – Panel on Urban Renewal in Israel  
Reception and Gala Evening Hosted by Mr. Shimon Lankri, Mayor of Akko |
| 20:30-21:30| **Consultation on Israel's Habitat Report** in Collaboration with the Israel Urban Forum |
| 18.11      | **18.11**  
**9.30-10.30**  
**Registration** |
|            | **Parallel Sessions**  
**9.30-11.00**  
The “Working City” – Chair: Shachar Solar, Director of Planning, Ministry of Environment  
Presentation of the new strategy of the Ministry of the Environment  
Urban Design in Israeli Cities – An Emerging Toolbox for the Public Domain: Chair, Dr. Els Verbakel, Bezalel Academy, Jerusalem  
This session will address the importance of quality, sustainability and inclusiveness in development of the Public Domain, taking into consideration the unique challenges of Israeli cities. This new approach invites diverse community stakeholders to play a role.  
Amir Halevi, Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, Ofer Manor, City |
Leadership and Urbanism: **Workshop, Mandel Institute in the Negev**
This training session will focus on mapping as a tool for defining the city and its urban properties. It will implement the training methods used by the Mandel Institute in the Negev. In this process, the definitive properties of urbanism are established by the local communities.

"Market-Making" – Workshop and Site visit
Inspired by the Project for Public Spaces, lecturing and touring complement each other in the Akko market.
Prof. Eli Stern, Zvika Mintz, Adi Ashkenazi and Galia Tsukerman

Community Development: **Workshop, Edna Pesher Team**
How to equip communities with the tools needed to improve all aspects of urban living, with the goal of strengthening local identity and encouraging innovation in the urban arena.

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<th>Parallel Sessions</th>
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<td><strong>Building Trust and Partnerships in the Urban Domain</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chairs: Naor Yerushalmi, Director of Life and Environment, Guido Segal, Urban Planner</strong>&lt;br&gt;The city as a democracy, the challenge of public participation and civic engagement. The panel engages stakeholders and municipal institutions.&lt;br&gt;Nitzan Horowitz, Dr. Michael Bircharg (KAS Israel), The Institute for Democratic Education, City council members and more.</td>
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<td><strong>The Good City – The Gap between Planning and Reality</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chair: Karin Talmor, the Israel Planning Administration</strong>&lt;br&gt;A panel discussion on the gap between perception of the “good city” and its principles and guidelines, the product of city planning, and what the public wants. The role of the urban planner and seeking ways to bridge the gaps&lt;br&gt;Naomi Angel, Prof. Hillel Shoken, Oded Kotok, Avishai Kimeldorf, Eitan Ginzburg</td>
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<td><strong>Soft Aspects of Urban Renewal</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chair, Dr. Emily Silverman, the Urban Clinic, Hebrew University</strong>&lt;br&gt;How to create community partnerships for urban renewal – Case Studies from Berlin, Canada and the U.S&lt;br&gt;Opening lectures:&lt;br&gt;Alexandra Wilson, Founder of the Canadian Cooperative Housing Initiative&lt;br&gt;Mindy Turbov, Head of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative under the Obama Administration&lt;br&gt;Bimkom Organization, Tel Aviv Municipality, Mosaica</td>
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<td><strong>The Diverse City</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chair, Inaya Bana, the Arab Center for Planning</strong>&lt;br&gt;Who does the City belong to? A panel discussion on ways of establishing the right and building the capacity of diverse urban communities to fulfill their urban role with dignity.&lt;br&gt;The Hagar Center, Tel Aviv University, The Arab Center for Planning, Ben Gurion University</td>
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<td><strong>Green and Blue Urban Infrastructure: Nature and the City</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chairs: Naomi Tsur, Chair of the Jerusalem Bioregion Center and Pazit Schweid, Director of Urban Communities, Society for Protection of Nature in Israel.</strong>&lt;br&gt;SPNI together with KAS Israel lead a session on the role of urban nature&lt;br&gt;Guest Speaker, David Maddox, writer, biologist and founder of the Nature of Cities, Amir Balaban, SPNI, Eyal Yaffe, Ministry of Environment, Tal Elal, Deputy Mayor of Beersheba, Einat Gefen, Tel Aviv Municipality and others</td>
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# New Neighborhoods – The Impact of Suburbs

**Chair: Dr. Michal Sofer, City Engineer of Akko, Dror Gershon, Director of Merhav**

New plans will take Akko East, to the other side of the coastal road. The new neighborhoods are hailed as the key to future prosperity for Akko. Is this true? Research conducted by Merhav and the Ben Gurion University examines the influence on the old city, and looks at the impact of similar development on other cities in the world.

Shai Alaluf, City Architect, research team from Ben Gurion University and Merhav

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**Parallel Sessions 13.30-15.00**

- **Resilient Cities:** LACDE, established by the Center for Local Government in Israel, has set a goal of equipping local authorities with the tools to cope with disaster or emergency. This requires cooperation across the board, with both national and global authorities. The Professional team will present a position paper on the Human/Cultural Factor in Urban Resilience
  - **Chair:** Prof. Mike Turner, UNESCO Chair, Bezalel Academy, Jerusalem
  - Ms. Paola Albrito, UNISDR, Europe
  - Mr. Roberto Valent, Regional Representative of UNDP
  - Prof. Els. Verbakel, Head of the Bezalel Graduate School of Urban Design, Jerusalem
  - Prof. Avi Kirschenbaum, Technion, Haifa
  - Mr. Meir Yitzhak Halevi, Mayor of Eilat

- **Urban Agriculture:** Chair, Prof. Galia Zukerman, Faculty of Agriculture, Hebrew University
  - Topical round table discussions touching on different aspects of urban agriculture. Community initiatives, commercial initiatives, educational programs. Permits, greenhouses, roofs, water, rights, and more.

- **Urbanism in Peripheral Areas:** Chair, Dr. Ronit Davidovitch Marton
  - Urbanism in small towns, far from commercial and economic centers.
  - The Mandell Leadership Center in the Negev, The Or movement, Representatives of Kiryat Shmona, Safed and others

- **Community and Public Spaces:**
  - Chair, Dr. Yodan Rofe, Ben Gurion University
  - Arch. Yael Hammerman Solar, Miri Arad, Heli Kessler, Ranel Harmatz, Nissan Almog, Oranit Avidan Ziv, Haim Lieberman

- **The Arab City**
  - Chairs: Prof. Rassem Hamaisi, Avirama Golan, Ophir Pines Paz
  - Panel Discussion on the unique character of Arab towns and local councils in Israel in the 21st century. The issue of planning rights, and economic growth.
  - The Jewish-Arab Center, Mayors and Heads of Local Councils. The
Arab Center for planning, the Mandel Leadership Institute, Sikkui . the Injez Society

Urban Indicators: *Chairs, Dr. Orli Ronen, the Porter School, Assaf Tsahor, Ministry of Environment*
A Discussion Focused on the Methodology of Assessing Urban Indicators.
*The Knesset Information Center, The Council for Green Building, Ministry of Housing, the Jerusalem Institute, Shattil, Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University*

New Technology for Urbanization: *Chair, Eyal Feder, ZenCity*
Technology is said to be the Gateway to the 21st Century. Does it have positive or negative impact? Round table discussions about smart cities, technologies, protection of privacy and Big Data.
*Rafi Risch, Assaf Frances, Tel Aviv Innovation Team, Ido Ivri, Public Knowledge Workshop*

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<th>16:30-18:30</th>
<th>Plenary – Facing Tomorrow - Equity among Cities</th>
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| **Panel Discussion** | Facilitator: Ophir Pines Paz, Head of the Institute for the Study of Local Government, Tel Aviv University  
                        Gideon Saar, formerly Minister of Interior  
                        Shimon Lankri, Mayor of Akko  
                        Michael Biton, Mayor of Yeruham  
                        Meir Yitzhak Levi, Mayor of Eilat  
                        Ramz Jerassi, Mayor of Nazareth  
                        Prof. Eran Razin, Hebrew University  
                        Summing Up: MK Gilad Erdan, Minister of Homeland Security |

Concluding remarks at the Close of the First Akko Convention on Urbanism: Naomi Tsur, Conference Chair and Orli Ronen, Conference Producer

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<td>Tastes in preservation - an experiential peek into the work of preservation</td>
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<td>13:00 – 14:30</td>
<td>Inter-Faith Encounter at the Al Jazzar Mosque, hosted by Sheikh Samir Aassi, together with Rabbi Yoseph Yashar, Chief Rabbi of Akko</td>
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<td>13:00-14:30</td>
<td>Multi-Cultural Reality of Akko - an exhibit at the Preservation Center</td>
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