

ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 20, 2019



Schedule

Opening Remarks

"Regional Economic Development in Judea and Samaria"

Eli Cohen, Minister of the Economy and Industry

"Judea Samaria Regional Development Financing Initiative"

Avi Zimmerman, Judea Samaria Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Enterprise Finance Part 1: Technology, Industry, and Energy

"Investing in Interdependence: a New Energy Market for Judea and Samaria"

Presentations:

Natan Shahar, Livolt Ltd.

Elad Shaviv, Microgrid Israel

Prof. Gady Golan, Ariel University

Panel: Idit Miller, Salah Abu Minyeh, Rotem Gantz, Moshe Lev-Ran

Enterprise Finance Part 2: Tourism

Presentation: **"Christian Tourism from the Far East"**

Dr. Gideon Elazar, Eastern Research and Development Center

Panel Members: Ashraf Jabari, Dr. Gideon Elazar, Hugo Chan, Maia Wiener

Lunch

Presentation: **"Financing Models and Development Opportunities"**

Steve Zecher, Milken Innovation Center

Infrastructure Finance Part 1: Environment

Presentation: **"Prioritizing Regional Rehabilitative Public Private Partnerships"**

Isaac (Itche) Meir, Samaria and Jordan Valley Environmental Protection Agency

Panel Members: Itsche Meir, Sharon Ketko, Nitsan Levi, Adam Badwan

Infrastructure Finance Part 2: Regional Development, Transportation, Water, Waste

Presentation: **"Industrial Development and Water Preservation"**

Dr. Yaakov Anker, Eastern Research and Development Center

Presentation: **"The Northern Benjamin Region as a Development Opportunity"**

Prof. Miriam Billig, Eastern Research and Development Center

Panel Members: Haldun Al-Husseini, Prof. Miriam Billig, Kais Mazarib, Dr. Eleonora Skolnik

Presentation: **"U.S. Technology and Investment in Judea & Samaria"**

Henry M. Lee, CEO ADC Energy USA, Inc.

Presenters



**Eli Cohen, Minister of the Economy and Industry:
“Regional Economic Development in Judea & Samaria”**

Eli Cohen has been Minister of the Economy and Industry and Cabinet Member since 2017. The Minister has been chosen four consecutive times to the list of Israel's top 100 influencers of the economy. He has emphasized bringing large corporations to Israel, strengthening local industry, bringing high-tech companies to the periphery, opening factories, and reducing the cost of living.



**Avi Zimmerman,
President and Founder, Judea Samaria Chamber of Commerce and Industry
“Judea Samaria Regional Development Financing Initiative”**

The Judea Samaria Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JSC) is launching a Regional Development Financing Initiative through which Israeli and Palestinian business leaders in Judea and Samaria partner to advance regional economic opportunities. In order to proceed, the JSC must first build the proper infrastructure. This includes mapping out potential partners, areas of partnership, and projects. Partnership teams will be cultivated around four primary project themes:

- Technology and industry, including innovation-based solutions for regional challenges with a focus on the food/energy/water nexus
- Environmental projects, including waste and water management
- Tourism, both cultural-heritage and recreational
- Transportation and Infrastructure

Each of the above categories is supported, monitored and advanced by research and development, led by Ariel University and the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology funded Eastern Research and Development Center. To support this initiative, the Milken Innovation Center-Jerusalem Institute will provide guidance and assistance to the JSC through the mapping process and the establishment of public-private partnership regional investment funds.

Enterprise Finance Part 1: Tech, Industry, and Energy

**“Investing in Interdependence: a New Energy Market for Judea and Samaria”
Regional Microgrid Production and Distribution**



**Natan Shahar
Owner/President, Livolt Ltd.,
Strategic Partner to Microgrid Israel**

Economic and human development in Judea and Samaria is hampered by the lack of regional energy infrastructure to link neighboring communities. Deployment of a regional energy grid is virtually impossible due to the difficulties of planning and regulating major infrastructure projects under the auspices of three separate but geographically intertwined political entities: The Palestinian Authority, the Israeli Defence Forces, and the Israeli Civil Administration. The requirement for coordination among these three regimes in order to lay a gas pipeline or run an electrical transmission cable raises the cost and risk of potential projects.

This problem of a lack of infrastructure may be bypassed by utilizing distributed generation and blockchain technology to build a regional energy market that operates independently from all political oversight. Judea and Samaria is rich in solar and wind renewable energy resources. The utilization of power to gas technology has the capacity to enable all residents of Judea and Samaria to produce renewable electricity and convert it directly into methane gas, which can be stored indefinitely and then used for car engines, electric generators, cooking, and heat. The entire region has the potential to produce more than \$5 billion worth of energy annually and the creation of a distributed market can make this vision a reality.



Elad Shaviv
CEO, Israeli Smart Energy Association



Professor Gady Golan
Faculty of Engineering, Dept. of Electrical and Electronics Engineering,
Ariel University, Israel

Enterprise Finance Part 2: Tourism



**“Christian Evangelical Tourism in Judea and Samaria:
Plans for Future Development”**
Dr. Gideon Elazar
Lecturer, Bar Ilan University and Ben Gurion University of the Negev

In the last several years, Israel has witnessed a steady rise in Christian, primarily Evangelical, tourism. In addition to the many Evangelical groups arriving in the region from North America, there has also been a considerable rise in the number of Christian visitors from China and elsewhere in the East Asian region. A large proportion of Chinese tourists are Christian and their visit to the region is motivated by their religious interest in the Holy Land. Yet, despite the religious affiliation and special interest in the land's historic and spiritual significance, the number of tourists visiting Judea and Samaria annually is relatively low.

The aim of this project is to promote the development of tourist sites and infrastructure in Judea and Samaria, catering specifically to Christian tour groups. In addition to sites and routes, the development of tourism in the region would also require training of additional tour guides and the construction of accommodations and additional food options.

Lunch



“Financing Models and Development Opportunities”
Steven Zecher
Project Director, Milken Innovation Center
at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies

Infrastructure Finance Part 1: Environment



“Environment Knows No Boundaries”

Isaac (Itche) Meir

CEO, Samaria and Jordan Valley Environmental Protection Agency

Barriers to proper environmental management in Judea and Samaria include categorical division of the administrative and security areas, serious environmental nuisances, lack of environmental legislation and large gaps between the Palestinian and Israeli populations in the region. These barriers cause significant environmental pollution and serious damage to natural resources and water resources. Air pollution, fires, landfill and uncontrolled dumping of household, industrial, electronic and agricultural waste and sewage that flows through the local streams and seeps into the subsoil are only some of the nuisances in the area. While in areas under Israeli jurisdiction, treatment of contaminants is essentially the same as in the sovereign state of Israel, the situation in areas under Palestinian control is significantly worse.

The required solution is for the government to initiate a program for trans-boundary environmental management and to level fiscal and programmatic responsibility on the government. Until such a decision is taken, more local action can be initiated by integrating the interests of communities and entrepreneurs. Integration can help overcome economic, social and, especially, political barriers in order to mitigate hazards. We bring examples of implementing facilities using environmental technologies with the assistance of external support for bridging the economic gaps of the two populations in Judea and Samaria.

Infrastructure Finance Part 2: Transportation, Water, Waste



“Industrial Development and Water Preservation”

Environmental Sustainability in the West Bank

Dr. Jacob Anker

**Senior Researcher and Environmental Research Coordinator, Eastern R&D Center;
Head of Water Studies, Ariel University, Department of Chemical Engineering**



Prof. Miriam Billig PhD

Scientific Director, Eastern R&D Center;

Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Ariel University

The Jordan River western face is becoming highly populated and by his lithological nature is very susceptible to anthropogenic pollution. The area is considered and a rapidly developing with on-going construction of urban and industrial areas that are not restricted by parallel development of pollution mitigation facilities. The consequence of these actions is an intensifying anthropogenic stress on natural infrastructures as potable water, breathable air and natural ecosystems.

Ongoing monitoring of human activities in this region suggest that while about 10% of groundwater recharge is wastewater this portion is constantly increasing owing to rapid urbanization that decrease infiltration and contribute larger amounts of wastewater. Industrial processes aggravate the situation even more by releasing of hazardous substances and over exploitation of natural resources such as water and building rock. The Environmental research activities uphold in the Ariel University and the eastern R&D center is focused at allowing the natural human development of the region without reducing its environmental sustainability.

The team engaged in this task involves experts of various research areas as: Geology, Geomorphology, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Sociology, Archeology and more. The operation involves low impact mitigation of aquatic wastes to a level it may be utilized for agriculture, recycling of various wastes, water sensitive planning (LID), sustainable agriculture and modification of traditional métiers for the current pollution emission standards.



A New Form of Energy Transmission

Henry M. Lee

CEO, ADC Energy USA, Inc.

ADC Energy's revolutionary energy efficiency technology has been recognized as groundbreaking by NASA, U.S. Green Build Council, and major U.S. Universities. ADC Energy can support the economic development goals in Judea-Samaria through deployment of its sole source technology, research and development and manufacturing. Together with Ariel University leading the local development team, ADC Energy in Israel will provide a leading edge efficient, productive and safe energy and economic solution.

Panelists

Enterprise Finance Part 1: Technology, Industry, and energy



Idit Miller
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Ariel University Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities,
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology Ariel University, Israel



Salah Abu-Myeleh
Palestinian Businessman
Hebron



Rotem Gantz
Managing Partner, Cognita Partners



Moshe Lev-Ran
International Export Manager, Twitoplast Ltd.

Enterprise Finance Part 2: Tourism



Ashraf Jabari
Palestinian Businessman
Hebron



Hugo Chan
Partner at the Law Firm Liao, Ho & Chan;
Chairman, A R Evans Technology Partners;
Chairman, Mugan China Limited
Hong Kong



Maia Wiener
Marketing Director, Tourism Department
Binyamin Regional Council

Infrastructure Finance Part 1: Environment



Sharon Ketko
CEO, Univerve Power



Nitsan Levi
CEO, Environmental Protection Agency, Judea

Infrastructure Finance Part 2: Transportation, Water, and Waste



Haldun Al-Husseini
Palestinian Businessman, Jerusalem



Kais Nazarin
Bedouin Sector Supervisor,
Ministry of the Economy



Dr. Eleonora Shkolnik
Entrepreneur, Founder, Educator,
Academic Director, The Field Center for Entrepreneurship at Ariel

Other speakers



Professor Glenn Yago
Senior Director, Milken Innovation Center;
Senior Fellow/Founder, Financial Innovations Labs



Yishai Netzer PhD
Eastern R&D Center, Ariel University;
Faculty of Chemical Engineering, Ariel University



Nimrod Inbar PhD
Geophysics and Geohydrology, Eastern R&D Center;
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