



ILAIS

Israel Chapter of the Association for Information Systems

2008 ,1 December

Dear ILAIS Members,

ILAIS was established in 2005. Four years have passed, and it is perhaps time to take stock of what has been accomplished since then and to chart a course for the near future

At the founding general meeting of the Association, three goals were set:

- organization of scientific conferences
- activities for doctoral students in IS
- development of Mediterranean cooperation in information systems

In terms of scientific conferences, the annual ILAIS Conference is becoming a tradition. Three conferences have been held at the University of Haifa, Bar-Ilan University, and most recently at the Emek Yezreel College. Thanks are due to Rachel Or-Bach and Aharon Yadin for organizing this year's conference, which was a very successful and enjoyable event, as were the previous two. It was very encouraging to note that several of our colleagues residing in the US also participated.

Nava Pliskin has taken upon herself to organize the 2009 conference at Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva. We are sure that it will be as great a success as its predecessors and thank Nava for her efforts. It is especially gratifying that each of these conferences has taken place in a different part of the country and that there is always someone willing to take up the challenge.

Activities for doctoral students in IS have concentrated until now on a doctoral student consortium associated with the annual conference. I am sure we can do more in this respect and will be happy to receive any suggestions in this direction. One possibility might be to set up a database of all current doctoral students and their areas of interest; that would enable us to facilitate contacts between students at different institutions who are working on similar topics and who might benefit from interaction among them.

The third goal, Mediterranean cooperation, is slowly taking shape. As I noted in my last report, two Israeli IS academics participated in the second Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems (MCIS) held in Venice in 2007. In October this year I participated in the third conference, which was held in Hammamet, Tunisia. I was pleasantly surprised by the very cordial welcome of the numerous participants from Tunisia and other Arab countries. The conference was intimate, of a high standard, and a very enjoyable event both academically and socially. It is a pity that more Israelis did not attend. The 2009 conference will be held in Athens; I am sure many of our members will be requested to participate in various capacities such as track chairs, reviewers, panelists and, of course, as paper presenters. I highly recommend acceptance of positions in the conference organization; if enough of us participate we will be able to have a considerable impact on the way the conference develops in the future.

The fifth Mediterranean conference, to be held in 2010, has been awarded to Israel. It would make much sense to combine our own ILAIS conference with the Mediterranean one so as to obtain both large participation and close relationships with the visitors who will come.

There have also been feelers concerning the possibility of organizing the European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS) here in Israel. This is a major event and would be a real boost to the status of Israel in the IS community. Anyone interested in learning more about this conference and the possibility of organizing it should contact Dov Te'eni <teeni@tau.ac.il> or myself <eindor@tau.ac.il>.

Finally, I hope to meet many of you at our annual meeting at the ICIS Conference in Paris this month. Dov Te'eni is co-chair of the conference and brings us much distinction in the IS community. Furthermore, an Israeli academic is a candidate to receive a major AIS award at ICIS in the course of the Monday Lunch; I am sure that the candidate will be very appreciative of the attendance of many Israeli colleagues at this event and I urge anyone who attends the conference to participate.

I will be happy to receive any comments or suggestions concerning any ILAIS activities, current or potential.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light blue background. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'Shelly L. D.'.

Chair, ILAIS