

CURRICULUM FORMAT OF THE I.U.B.E.

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Environmental Management

Environmentalists working for the Israel Ministry of the Environment believe that the key to environmental protection, and to achieving sustainable development, lies in the establishment of a strong and professional system of environmental management. Israel, as a rapidly growing country faced with developmental and environmental problems, was an early champion of the principles of environmental management.

Basic to environmental management in Israel is a policy founded upon cooperation and integration between environmental protection and economic development. The avoidance of unnecessary conflict is achieved through the use of a multi-disciplinary approach whereby all relevant factors technological, economic, social, planning, environmental, etc., are considered in the decision-making process for major development projects.

Israel has accumulated a wealth of experience in environmental management: practical training in the field which no theory or long-winded manual can replace. This concept has been developed, tried and tested at both the local and national level. We would be more than willing to share our experience with the International University for the Bio-Environment (I.U.B.E.).

The role of grass-roots groups

Grass-roots organizations are often the most enthusiastic and dedicated of all groups working for environmental protection. The importance of such groups must be emphasized, and their capacity for alerting us to the dangers of environmental degradation is pivotal. Moreover, members of voluntary groups are most likely to benefit from a new institution dedicated to promoting environmental education.

For example, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, an apolitical, non-governmental organization, has been highly instrumental in the spread of environmental awareness. I feel sure that they too would have an important contribution to make towards the curriculum development of the I.U.B.E.

Environmental education in Israel

Throughout the years, environmental topics have been integrated into both primary, secondary, and further education systems. Within the past year (1990) training sessions for teaching staff were organized within the educational system; a new study programme was prepared for the primary and intermediate classes; and pamphlets dealing with environmental protection were distributed in schools. Several high schools are developing a unique study programme on environmental issues.

In 1982, Environmental Education Centres (EECs) were established throughout Israel within the framework of the environmental units in local municipalities, in order to promote environmental education at the local level. Today, sixteen local environmental education and information centres operate throughout the country. They serve as a focal point for community environmental activities. They assist the formal education system in the planning and preparation of environmental curricula in conjunction with local teachers and support the introduction of new, innovative educational approaches.

Professor **Uri Marinov** is Director General of the Ministry of the Environment of Israel and Professor of the Environmental Sciences Division, Hebrew University and the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Israel Institute of Technology. Educated in the United States, he is a member of many national and international councils and societies in the areas of environmental management and education, resource

management and environmental development. He received the UNEP global 500 Award for Environmental Achievement in 1989 and has published extensively on the environment in Israel, environmental planning, coastal management, and environmental quality.