



November 27, 2017

Dear colleagues:

Re: Welcoming note – ICIL2018

On behalf of the Ira Foundation for Business, Technology & Society, named after the late fighter pilot, pilot instructor and Industrial Engineering & Management Engineer, Ira Lahat-Gerzberg, and on behalf of the National Israeli Association of Engineers and Architects, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the ICIL2018. It was only ten years ago, in March 9-15, 2008, that I have welcomed, as the Chair, the ICIL2008 international academic event at the David Intercontinental Hotel in Tel Aviv, in conjunction with the Bi-Annual National Conference of Industrial Engineering & Management. Then and now, we feel privileged that the ICIL Executive Board, presided by my friend and colleague Prof. Alberto Canen, asked Prof. Zilla Sinuani-Stern and myself to host this important meeting and we trust that your stay will be productive academically and enriching spiritually, as was the case ten years ago. The fields of logistics, innovation and related academic disciplines are indeed a very part of all factor driven, efficiency driven and innovation driven economies, all of which are represented in the delegations joining us from around the world at the ICIL2018. The virtual, internet based, economy requires, on the one hand, the adoption of innovative, disruptive, technologies and, on the other hand, expanding the total value of goods transported and recycled, while transcending international borders completely. Corporations the world over try to deal with global commerce through a proliferation of non for profit organizations committed to innovation and logistics, such as such as GS1. GS1 is a not-for-profit organization that develops and maintains global standards for business communication. The best known of these standards is the barcode. GS1 barcodes are scanned more than six billion times every day. GS1 has 112 local member organizations and 1.5 million user corporations in 25 industrial sectors. We, as members of the academic community, have the responsibility to provide new solutions to the evolving global commerce supported by these industrial non for profit organizations and other organizations. We in Israel take pride in the fact that we have contributed to the world an advanced navigation system, Waze, an autonomous vehicle technology, Mobileye, as well as other cyber and internet technologies. All these technologies in one way or another are a result of some academic research which contributes to innovation and logistics in all industrial and commercial systems. We wish all the ICIL2018 delegates a very fruitful meeting and wish the ICIL organization many more successful meetings.

Shalom and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Menipaz', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Emeritus Ehud Menipaz, P.Eng.
Ben Gurion University
Chairman, Ira Center for Business, Technology & Society
Member, Executive Committee, Industrial Engineering & Management Society
The Israel National Association of Engineers and Architects
President, Association of GEM National Teams
Global Entrepreneurship Research Association
Lausanne, Switzerland