

Jerusalem Forum Promotes Educational Initiatives

Hod Ben Zvi
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Jerusalem, Israel—Senior members of the Jerusalem Interfaith Forum gathered at the Israeli Peace Education Center (IPEC) on August 26, 2015 to discuss and promote educational initiatives.

The meeting began by introducing the newly-opened IPEC to the guests. Mr. Hod Ben Zvi and Dr. Nurit Hirschfeld, president and secretary-general, respectively, of UPF-Israel, led the discussion.

Imam Sheik Samir Aasi of Al-Jazar Mosque in Acre in northern Israel suggested organizing a meeting where representatives of the forum could introduce the forum to representatives of Israel's Education Ministry to consider interfaith activities for schools.

Sheik Dr. Omar Kayal, national inspector in the Religious Communities Department of the Interior Ministry, has been organizing interfaith activities on behalf of the government ministry, most of which have involved: (1) delegations of religious leaders visiting sick people in hospitals and (2) organizing a one-day seminar where various religious leaders visit schools and meet students to discuss knowing and respecting the other.

Dr. Ohr Margalit, head of the Jewish philosophy department at Levinsky International College of Education in Tel Aviv, and Mr. Koby Nehushtan, a researcher of religions, offered their help in connecting Jewish schools to Sheik Kayal's educational initiative.

Dr. Hanoch Ben-Pazi, a faculty member of the department of Jewish philosophy at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Alan spoke about interfaith activities for teachers.

Sheik Ali Birani, president of the Jerusalem Interfaith Forum, who is from Daliat El-Carmel, underscored the importance of interfaith educational activities.

