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**Contact for the  
German Federal Ministry of  
Education and Research (BMBF)**  
International Bureau of the BMBF  
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1  
53227 Bonn  
Germany  
Tel.: + 49 (0) 228 3821-459  
Fax: + 49 (0) 228 3821-444  
[gist2008@dlr.de](mailto:gist2008@dlr.de)  
[www.internationales-buero.de](http://www.internationales-buero.de)

**Contact for the  
Israel Ministry of Science,  
Culture & Sport (MOST)**  
Department of International Relations  
with Germany, South America  
and International Organizations  
P.O.B. 49100  
Jerusalem 91490  
Israel  
Tel.: + 972 (0) 2 5411157  
Fax: + 972 (0) 2 5825725  
[nurit@most.gov.il](mailto:nurit@most.gov.il)  
[www.most.gov.il](http://www.most.gov.il)



# Science as Diplomacy of Trust

## The German-Israeli Year of Science and Technology 2008

The German-Israeli Year of Science and Technology 2008 is being launched on the initiative of the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Dr. Annette Schavan, and the Israeli Minister of Science, Culture and Sport, Galeb Majadle. Its aim is to extend and intensify German-Israeli bilateral cooperation in science and research, which began almost 50 years ago.

The motto of the German-Israeli Year of Science is "Science as Diplomacy of Trust".

The objectives:

- The German-Israeli Year of Science and Technology is to raise **awareness** of Germany as a key location of research among the Israeli **public**.
- It will highlight the **diversity and excellence** of our bilateral science cooperation.
- Special emphasis will be put on cooperation between **young researchers** in both countries in order to ensure that the outstanding research partnership between Germany and Israel will continue in the next generation.

We want to go beyond the tried and tested approaches and initiate new developments. Supplementing the current collaborative projects between scientific institutions in Germany and Israel, the Year of Science will also encourage **application-oriented collaborations in research and development**. A further aim is to strengthen the humanities and social sciences. The establishment of a **Minerva Centre for the Humanities and Social Sciences** will be an important milestone in these efforts. Health research, security research and environmental research are further priority areas of the Year of Science and Technology.

To mark the importance of young research talent in German-Israeli cooperation, the BMBF is introducing an annual **incentive award**, which will be presented to two excellent teams of young German and Israeli researchers in the humanities and social sciences in 2008. Next year, the award will honour excellent achievements in the natural and life sciences, and in the following years it will be granted alternately in the two fields.

A number of events will take place in Germany and Israel throughout the Year of Science. They will mainly be organized by

- the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (**BMBF**)
- the Israel Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport (**MOST**)
- the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (**GIF**).

Further events will be carried out by the **research and science organizations** that are active in German-Israeli cooperation:

- the Helmholtz Association (HGF)
- the Max Planck Society (MPG)
- the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG).

Research funding organizations such as the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation (AvH) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as well as the German Laender will also be involved in the German-Israeli Year of Science and Technology, which will officially be concluded in Israel in November 2008, on the anniversary of the foundation of GIF.