

**ISRAELI ASSOCIATION
of FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS (IAFICS)
(Affiliated to the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants –FAFICS)**

13 February 2011

Report on IAFICS 3rd Meeting on 7 February 2011

The 3rd annual meeting of IAFICS (for the year 2011) took place, like the two years before, in Tel-Aviv at the headquarters of Israel Yafa on the northern bank of the Yarkon River (at Gane'i Yehoshu'a). It was attended by a total of ten out of the 21 members of the Association (see Annex A).

The meeting was chaired and opened by the Association's President, Prof. Michael Suess. Since not all the participants were fluent in Hebrew, it was decided to hold the meeting in English, which is also the language in which communications of FAFICS and IAFICS are made.

Dr Franz Peritz agreed to act as the Reporter.

The participants then introduced themselves and gave a short summary of their UN system career and experience. The Temporary Agenda prepared for this meeting was then approved, without any changes. This was followed by Prof. Suess giving a brief report on the 39th Annual FAFICS Council, at which he participated as the IAFICS representative, and which was held in London in July 2010. In this connection, it was suggested from the floor and decided by the meeting to nominate Prof. Suess as the IAFICS representative also at the next 40th Annual FAFICS Council meeting to be held in Geneva in July this year.

The meeting was informed about the UN decision and the respective letter from the UN Secretary-General to declare the week 1-7 February, 2011, as the First Interfaith Week, and that a copy of this letter will be emailed to all the members.

Also, Dr Suess read to the meeting a letter from Mr Andres Costellanos, President of FAFICS, concerning the report that FAFICS is committed to prepare and submit to the Economic and Social Commission of the UN (ECOSOC), once every four years. In his letter, Mr Costellanos requested the Presidents of the FAFICS associations to provide appropriate information for this purpose. Regrettably, it was noted that IAFICS has not yet any such information to provide. In this connection, various possible activities by IAFICS members have been reviewed, such as lectures in schools about the UN system, etc.

Prof. Suess then reported on his activities related to the recruitment of additional UN system retirees with a resident address in Israel and the West Bank, and the invitation to them to join IAFICS. He referred to the letter of invitation of last December 2010, sent to FAFICS Secretariat in Geneva with the request to have the UNJSPF mail copies of this letter to all the appropriate addresses in Israel. However, so far, no reply has yet been received from Geneva. The subject was further discussed and Prof. Jacob Maos volunteered to open a website of the Association on the Internet for that purpose. His proposal was gratefully accepted.

The meeting then thankfully accepted the invitation of Dr. Peritz to hold later this year at his home in Haifa an informal social gathering of the members of the Association. The Secretariat will make arrangements to fix a convenient date for the gathering and issue respective invitations.

Further information was provided by Prof. Suess on the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, on which about 62,000 retirees depend for their monthly pension and to which about 110,000 UN present employees and their employing UN organizations pay their monthly contributions. It was noted that the Fund's value is not far again from its peak, and that it has no problem in meeting all pension payment commitments, which are presently covered fully from the monthly contributions.

Dr. Michael Graber, IAFICS Treasurer, provided a brief summary of the Association's financial situation and noted that all the registered members of the Association have paid their dues for 2010, and all the financial obligations of the association have been met. He also mentioned that two members have already paid their dues for 2011, and encouraged all other members to do the same as soon as possible. (Several members have done so immediately following the end of the meeting).

As the term of office of the present officers of the IAFICS Secretariat has come to an end, the Chairman called for suggestions and candidates for these posts. (Such a request was already made by email before, together with the invitation to the present meeting. However, no response was received.) Now, the suggestion was made from the floor to request the present officers to continue their service for another two-year period. Hence, the positions of President, Vice-President and Treasurer will again be held by Prof. Suess, Dr. Peritz and Dr. Graber, respectively. This was approved by all the participants.

The participants at the 3rd annual meeting on 7 February, 2011, included:
Ms Hilda Ben-Nun, Mr Menakhem Ben-Yami, Ms Lina Coriat, Ms Dahlia Gilad, Mr Uri Golani, Dr Michael Graber, Prof. Jacob Maos, Dr Franz Peritz, Prof. Michael Suess and Ms Anny Vidor.