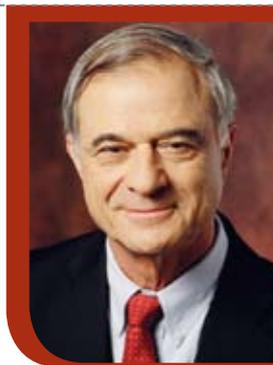


The Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce



Mr. Uriel Lynn
President

FICC - The Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce - is one of Israel's largest business organizations. With its finger on the pulse of the country's economy, the Federation is regarded as one of the most influential and most dynamic organizations of its kind in Israel. Strictly non-profit, non-political and non-partisan, FICC is dedicated to a market economy and free enterprise. As the country's largest employers association, FICC is one of the leading members of the coordinating council of Israel's economic organization, and represents the interests of Israel's business sector, including exporters and importers, wholesale and retail, services and manufacturers.

FICC helps foster global commercial links, and was instrumental in forging commercial ties that eventually paved the way for diplomatic relations with countries that had not previously recognized Israel, such as the USSR, China India and Indonesia. FICC was also instrumental in paving the road towards economic dialogue with Israel's Arab neighbors within the framework of the Middle East Peace Process. Thanks to free trade agreements with countries and international trade blocs, including the USA, EEC and EFTA, Israel has become an important player in world trade.

FICC is actively involved in exploiting this strategic position to ensure that Israel plays an ever-increasing role in global markets.

FICC acts as a sorting house for essential data on Israel's business sector. The Federation's educational activities are aimed at providing training to members and in promoting the teaching of business related subjects in Israel's school system. The Federation supports small businesses, and encourages entrepreneurs and new immigrants to establish themselves in Israel's business community.

FICC is a totally autonomous body that operates independently of the Government or any other institution. FICC serves as the roof organization of 6 regional Chambers of Commerce: Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Beer Sheva, Nazareth.

Organizational structure

FICC is headed by a democratically elected board and council. The board determines FICC's policy, while the council, headed by the president, supervises its implementation. FICC has over 110 trade sections and branches, covering every facet of the economy. Each section deals with a whole range of professionally and sectorial related issues and problems.

The FICC main divisions are:

- International Trade Division
- Economic Division
- Import, Custom & Standardization Division
- Commercial and Business Division
- Labor Relation Division
- PR and Spokesman's Division
- Legal Division and Commercial Arbitration institute.
- Business Training Center
- Information

International trade and business services

As part of its policy of fostering international trade links, FICC offers the following services to members:

Information Center:

FICC offers a wide range of business data for identifying and matching customers and suppliers in Israel and abroad. This data is provided via catalogues and directories and via computerized data bases. FICC also circulates the large numbers of requests for business ties received daily at the Federation's offices.

- Computerized data-center containing updated commercial information on global business, commerce and trade.

- Clearing house for inquiries about new business opportunities, joint ventures, investments, etc.
- Information on tenders in Israel and abroad.

International Trade Relations Division

Activities and Services:

- Consultation and information regarding international trade issues.
- Assistance in developing business relations in international markets.
- Letters of recommendation for members interested in developing/expanding their business overseas.
- Organizing outgoing trade missions, aiming at developing business relations between Israeli and foreign companies.
- Hosting incoming trade missions, and arranging individual business meetings between foreign businessmen and chamber members.
- Publishing economic surveys, business guides and a quarterly e-newsletter in English.
- Organizing seminars on Israeli Economy and International Trade.
- Letters of support for the issue of visas, and assistance to foreign guests with security procedures at Ben-Gurion Airport.
- Fostering contacts with foreign Embassies in Israel, Israeli Embassies abroad, Chambers of Commerce worldwide, International Economic Organizations and Government Offices.
- Business Opportunities Database.

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