



May, 2010

Shalom Everyone!

So much has happened in the last nine months, since we have begun talking about the Israeli model of *Teach First*...

I am thrilled to announce the launch of *Teach First Israel* (TFI, "Chotam" in Hebrew)!

In addition, *Teach First Israel* has recently joined the network of thirteen countries located in four continents called: *Teach for All* - the global network for expanding educational opportunity!



Teach First Israel and *Teach For All* - contract signing

Left: Asaf Banner (TFI Director), Shlomit Amichai (TFI chairperson), Mariyam Farooq (TFALL representative), Professor Yossi Tamir (Tevet Director), Arnon Mantver (JDC-Israel Director)

Here is a short status update of our advancement:

- **Recruitment** - TFI recruiters have been working relentlessly in Israel's six universities, aiming to reach out and recruit Israel's finest university students to TFI. An impressive sum of 650 applications have been submitted - all of which by outstanding, excelling students! It appears that the screening process will be a challenging one... Our goal is to complete the recruitment process by the end of April, with the best 100 participants.



- **Screening** – TFI worked in close collaboration with the [National Institute for Testing and Evaluation](#) and with the [National Authority for Testing and Evaluation in Education](#) (an independent professional unit, directly subordinated to Israel's Education Minister), and constructed TFI's unique screening model. During a very short period, TFI has managed to recruit and train the screening team whose painstaking task is to choose TFI's first 100 future teachers. The screening process is well underway with three screening days in three different locations. The Applicants for TFI submitted two lengthy application forms, were interviewed twice and participated in discussions in group dynamics form in addition to preparing and teaching a class.



Teach First Israel screening day, May 2010



TFI chairperson, Shlomit Amichai and Donor Avraham Kadar (BrainPop) speaking to students on screening day.

Testimonies:

- "I would have chosen the eight candidates I've seen in the group to become teachers right away, even the weaker candidate was excellent!" Yoel Rap, a senior manager in the [National Authority for Testing and Evaluation in Education](#) who participated in the screening process.

- "All candidates I've seen were simply excellent!", Rivka Friedlander, a senior science teacher.

- **Training** – TFI published a tender in order to select its academic partner for training the participants. Bar – Ilan University and Beit Berl Teacher's College, together with the Haifa University have submitted their proposals. These proposals are being closely examined by a professional committee whose members are representatives from TFI, the Ministry of Education, and distinguished academics in the Education Field. The committee will submit its recommendation to the tender committee, and the tender committee will declare the winner by the end of May. We aim to complete creating and styling the training program over the next few months, based on the teacher training outline recommended by the [Council for Higher Education](#). The training program is composed of three semesters. The first semester will take place over the summer and will be packed, intensive and demanding. The following two semesters will take place over the course of the school year in concentrated days alongside close guidance and mentoring.



- **Placement** – TFI made a strategic decision to place students in four locations during the 2010-2011 pilot year: Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Be'er Sheva and Haifa. We are mapping potential schools in the relevant districts in cooperation with the Education Ministry. Responses from the field are extremely enthusiastic, particularly those coming from school principals who express a wish to become TFI schools.
- **TFI's new website is launched!** www.tfi.org.il (support in English will be available soon)
- **Partnership with the business sector** – We are happy to report that large companies and corporations are keen to join the TFI effort, and can already name [McKinsey & Company](#), [Leumi Bank](#) and [Cellcom](#) on our partner list. We await responses from other companies and are confident that together we will widen TFI's impact further.
- **TFI's Dream Team** – TFI's team, though small and new to the program, is extremely professional, talented and driven:
Shlomit Amichai, formerly the Director General of the Education Ministry, acts as TFI's chairperson;
Asaf Banner is the Program Director;
Itay Soudry is the Director of Recruitment and Screening
Gali Einis is the Director of Training
Danielle Israel is the Director of MarCom and Knowledge Management
Dita Salman is the Director of Placement.
- **Resource Development** – We are still looking to expand our financing possibilities in order to ensure the smooth running of the program for the next three years.
I will be happy to be in touch with you on the subject.

Condolences

I wish to take this opportunity to express our deepest condolences to our dear friends, the Kadar family, who have recently suffered the painful loss of Naomi Kadar, beloved wife, mother and educator. Naomi and her husband Avraham, the founders of BrainPop.com, were among the first supporters of *Teach First Israel*. Their generous gift ensured the start-up phase of TFI and their inspiration is keeping us going during these intense months of preparation for the training program. TFI's strategic partners: The Education ministry, Hakol Hinuch movement ("It's All About Education") and JDC, have decided to name the summer training program in honor of Naomi Kadar and give a special grant in her name to the most outstanding participant in the program.