

**Address by the Ambassador Gianluigi Benedetti  
on the occasion of the scientific workshop on Graphene  
Bar Ilan University - November 25, 2019**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Italian - Israeli workshop on 2D Materials. This topic is at the forefront of science today and is considered technologically and industrially promising – and already fulfilling.

We all know the Nobel Prize in 2019 was awarded to Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov for – and I quote – the ground-breaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene.

The group that is focusing on this subject matter at the Bar Ilan University is, so I have heard, one of the leaders in this field in Israel.

The subject matter is suitable for academic cooperation and is also a good source of ideas for collaboration between the bilateral industries, as the strength, flexibility and electrical conductivity have opened up doors not only for pure physics research but also to high-tech applications.

The bilateral relations between our Countries are excellent in all sectors and are growing each year, impressive achievements are to be seen in the scientific, technological and industrial fields, where we benefit from strong academic and scientific communities, the complementarity of our economic systems and a unique Government to Government Agreement, signed in 2000 and launched in 2002.

This is a prioritized spectrum of activities and initiatives for both Governments that invest together almost 5 million Euros every year, facilitating an ambitious agenda including every year:

- a scientific call with the Israeli Ministry of Science and an industrial call with the Israeli Authority for Innovation,
- a bilateral joint lab,
- a special prize for senior researchers (the “Rita Levi Montalcini Prize”),
- about ten workshops, such as this one, where real encounters, exchange of opinions, and hopefully long term collaborations are happening all the time,
- last but not least, starting from this year, a fund to promote and facilitate start-ups mobility in the two directions.

The scientific workshops are our “bottom-up” instrument since both Governments believe that in science and innovation you must listen to the true voice of scholars, researchers and experts and then help them to consolidate their ideas and proposals into long term collaboration, whether in the bilateral level, European level, or global level.

I hope that this seminar too will stimulate ideas and projects that could possibly become proposals for our joint academic and industrial projects.

I would like to thank Dr. Doron Naveh and his assistant Mrs. Dikla Kimhi, for their contribution to this event.

Bar Ilan is becoming a strong partner of ours, for scientific and academic collaboration, next year we are holding a large-scale event with Prof. Gilbert Nessim, and we are looking forward to always extending our joint fields of interest.

Please be our messengers to other scholars and researchers at this prestigious University: “the Embassy of Italy is promoting science and innovation and it’s all ears for your suggestions”.

Have an interesting seminar, thank you very much for your attention.