

The series of events at the University of Hohenheim started on the 6th of July 2015 with the kick-off event of the KKL touring exhibition “The history of a green Israel” by the President of the University of Hohenheim, Prof. Dr. Stephan Dabbert. The opening as well as the closing ceremony on the 16th of July 2015 were well received by the citizens of Stuttgart and the specialist lectures were lively discussed.

A delegation of 33 members from Israel arrived on 7th of July 2015, headed by the Vice President for Research and Development of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI), Prof. Dr. Shy Arkin and the dean of our partner faculty, the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment of the HUJI in Rehovot, Prof. Dr. Shmulik Wolf as well as the Chief Scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection, Dr. Sinaia Netanyahu. Besides them, the delegation was composed of scientists and students of the partner faculty. The latter were received by students of the University of Hohenheim for a “Welcome Party” to especially promote the exchange of the young generation.

The highlight of the events was the Anniversary Workshop on 8th of July 2015. Two anniversaries were celebrated at the same time, 50 years of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel as well as more than 25 years of partnership between the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Rehovot and the Faculties for Agricultural Sciences and Natural Sciences of the University of Hohenheim. There were presentations of both Israeli as well as German scientists allocated to three sessions on “Global Food Security and Ecosystem Research”, “Health Sciences” and “Bioeconomy”. More than hundred participants from the scientific community and society attended this event. The special guest lecture of the former Israeli ambassador Shimon Stein, the specialist lecture of Dr. Netanyahu as well as the opening speeches of the Israeli deputy ambassador Dr. Dan Shaham and MA Barbara Traub representing the Central Council of Jews in Germany, achieved great attention. Many animated conversations took place between the Israeli guests, the Hohenheim scientists and members of the civil society of Stuttgart, mostly during the breaks and the reception dinner, which was opened with a speech by the Deputy Minister of Science, Research and the Arts Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Simone Schwanitz. The active participation of the Jewish Community of Württemberg (IRGW) enabled a lively communication between the Israeli guests and Jewish as well as Christian Germans.

The program continued with an internal workshop on the 9th of July 2015. Scientists of both partner faculties presented research results as well as new ideas for joint research projects. All the ten students of the Israeli delegation presented their research results. The afternoon was reserved for an excursion to the Randecker Maar. This field trip was led by Prof. Dr. Johanna Eder, the director of the Stuttgart State Museum of Natural History. Besides learning about research findings at this fossil site, the participants of the Israeli delegation thus enjoyed a patrimonial impression of the beautiful countryside of Baden-Württemberg.