

The Production and Operations Management Society (POMS) will hold its 2017 summer international conference in Tel Aviv, Israel. The conference is organized in cooperation with the Operations Research Society of Israel (ORSIS) and will be held from the 27th to the 29th of June 2017. The goal of the conference is to encourage global collaboration around research and teaching in the area of Operations Management and Operations Research between researchers in the US, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, and to expose international participants to the technology revolution in Israel.

Israel, a small country of 8 million people, established in 1948, with a rich history as the cradle of the world's monotheistic religions, has witnessed, in the last couple of decades, an unprecedented technological innovation revolution—to the extent that it is now called “The Startup Nation”. Driven by its entrepreneurship culture, government investments, and waves of educated immigrants, Israel has become a technology and innovation pioneer. In 2015, Israel was ranked 5th in the world in the Bloomberg Innovation Index, ahead of the United States and the United Kingdom, with Tel Aviv ranked 2nd in the top 20 entrepreneurial hot spots in the world after the Silicon Valley. Israel has the highest number of startups per capita, and is the second in the world in total number of startup companies. In 2015, Israel attracted almost \$5B worth of investment in high tech spread over 708 companies and high tech exports totaled \$9B, the highest in Europe. Most leading global companies such as Facebook, Google, Intel, and Microsoft have established innovation centers in Israel.

The main part of the conference will be conducted over two days (the 28th and 29th of June) with a reception scheduled for the 27th of June. The conference will also include an optional conference dinner on June 28th and a final reception dinner on June 29th. During the two main days of the conference, there will be eight different tracks based on the seven POMS colleges—supply chain management, sustainable operations, service operations, healthcare operations management, behavior in operations management, humanitarian operations and crisis management, product innovation and technology management—and a general track.

For those who wish to learn more about Israel's history and its geopolitical and economic environment as well as its innovation revolution, there will be two tours offered prior to the start of the conference. The first will be a tour of Jerusalem, one of the oldest cities in the world, home to some of the holiest sites of the three main monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The tour will also include a visit to the Israeli parliament (The Knesset), a meeting with government officials and a visit to the country's Supreme Court. The second tour will focus on Israel's high tech sector and innovation in a variety of areas ranging from information technology, medical and bio-tech to clean technology, water and sustainability and will include a visit to Israeli incubators and innovation centers as well as other leading Israeli companies.

The 2017 POMS International Conference in Israel is chaired by Gal Raz and Yale T. Herer and the organizing committee includes: Yossi Aviv, Amit Eynan, Sushil Gupta, Nagesh Murthy, Avraham Shtub and Michal Tzur. The program chairs are Noam Shamir and Ella Segev.

If you have questions about the conference, please contact the conference co-chairs Yale T. Herer and Gal Raz (POMS.Israel@gmail.com); regarding logistics and administrative issues, reach out to Nilly Schnapp (Nilly.POMS.Israel@gmail.com). The conference website (POMSIsrael.technion.ac.il.) will be continually updated with the latest information.

Looking forward to seeing you in Israel,

Gal and Yale