Workshop on Humanitarian Diplomacy in the Middle East: Background and Introduction to the Local Players

Humanitarian diplomacy is the practice of persuading decision makers and opinion leaders to act in the interest of vulnerable persons with full respect for humanitarian principles. Its aim is to protect, assist and find solutions for refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons, focusing on maximizing support for operations, programs, and building the necessary partnerships.

This humanitarian multi-billion dollars operation presents a major challenge for non-political organizations, since there is nothing non-political by nature in the situations that lead to vulnerability. The challenge is to deal with political actors to gain and maintain the trust of all parties, taking no side other than that of vulnerable persons.

The Program for Peace and Conflict Management at the University of Haifa, offers for the first time a unique opportunity to practitioners in all Humanitarian Diplomacy organizations, Embassies, Government agencies, journalists, students and concerned parties to learn the basics of this field and the special characteristics of each party in the region, including opportunities for most helpful informal encounters.

The workshop will begin on June 12, 2018.*

Space is limited

The workshop will be offered in two formats: a brief workshop of five weeks (30 hours) or an extended workshop of 9 weeks (54 hours) + 4 field trips (36 hours). The workshops will focus on theory and practices of government and non-government organizations, history and current status of human rights and humanitarian aid globally and in the region. Together with knowledge of the foundations and theories of the field, the workshop will provide participants with the full scope map to understand the dynamics, players, government, non-government and other involved parties in the region, including first-hand introductions to many of them.

Workshop Topics include: Humanitarian Diplomacy: definitions, policy, practices; Middle East political history; The strategic balance; Between government ministries in Israel (Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense); The legal envelope; Military approach; Advocacy; NGO's practices; Psychology of political confrontation; Media and social networks; Economics and finances of the operation; Negotiations.

Workshop meetings will be held one day per week at the University of Haifa, and will include lectures, discussions, exercises and field trips. Submission of final paper is required to obtain a certificate of completion.

Participation in the workshop can be recognized as 2 credits (brief format) or 4 credits (extended format) toward an M.A. degree in Peace and Conflict Management, if participants choose to enroll in the M.A. program.

Lecturers: Senior faculty of the University of Haifa, representatives of the Government of Israel, Palestinian Authority and non-government organizations

The program will be led by:

Daniel Beaudoin Ph.D. (Lt. Col. ret.). Consultant on humanitarian diplomacy, civil-military coordination, and facilitation of humanitarian operations. Currently teaching at Tel Aviv University and Diplofoundation, Geneva.

Ambassador Itzhak Oren, Ph.D. Former political advisor to the Prime Minister, Minister in the Israeli embassy, Washington, Ambassador to Nigeria and Benin Republic. Currently teaching at the University of Haifa.

Costs:
Brief workshop: 6,000 NIS
Extended workshop: 20,000 NIS
1000 NIS registration fee will be charged at the time of registration. The rest of the payment will be due at the start of the workshop

For Details and Registration contact 04-8249096 or bbotnik@univ.haifa.ac.il

* Opening the workshop is conditional upon registration of a minimal number of participants.