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Training and coaching newly elected mayors, Tel Aviv University-2013-2014

Name of program

Training Mayors, Tel Aviv University

Year of activity

2013-2014

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Status of program

The third event – a professional tour in Carmiel Municipality - out of four just finished. 25 mayors and senior officials were took part in the tour. They participated with a planning seminar and had operative discussions with the District Commissioner of the Ministry of Interior, including some important achievements. The mayor of Carmiel led the tour around the city. Now, we are in the middle of the "Consulting Package" stage, while mayors are getting 10 hours of consulting with academic experts who focusing on management, education and economic development. The last activity (the fourth event) will take place in the end of December 2014 at Tel Aviv University.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

During the last 10 months we organized three events. The first event was at December 18th, 2013 in Tel Aviv University. Thirty one new mayors who just elected,

were participated several discussions about leadership, management skills and governance capacities. These discussions based on lectures that given by senior mayors of the City of Tel Aviv, City of Rishon Le-Zion, City of Yoqneam, City of Ma'alot-Tarshihahthe and City of Hura to new mayors.

Moreover, a policy conversation with the Deputy Minister of Interior, and an academic lecture about small cities in a global world, had given, as well as, a professional coaching section to mayors. The President of Tel Aviv University was officially opened the program.

The second event was at January 21-23, 2014 in the Dead Sea, while 35 new mayors were participated a three days' workshop. The workshop based on several sections about budgeting and planning policies. The mayor of Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut and the Chairman of the Local Authorities Union in Israel was opened the workshop. Mayors discussed with seniors officials from the Ministry of Finance (represented by Mr. Amir Levi, Head of Budgets Department) and Ministry of Interior (represented by Mr. Yaron Turel, Manager of the Local Committees Department), as well as, professional and academic experts. The participants enjoyed also a short training of photogenic awareness front of camera, which helped them with their daily work in their towns.

The third event was at October 21st, 2014 in the City of Carmiel. 25 mayors were participated a half-day professional tour which delivered by the mayor of Carmiel. Participants met the District Commissioner of the Ministry of Interior and discussed operational issues. Following this discussion the Commissioner decided to invite all mayors to all planning meetings in the district and to establish together with the mayors a constant forum within the district which will focus Arab local government's needs. Then the mayor of Carmiel led the tour among several sites in the city and learned advanced tools.

In additional to these three events, several mayors enjoy 10 hours of "consulting package", which given them on strategic policy issues they want to develop in their towns. These packages include consulting with education, management, tourism and economic development. They based on academic experts who meet mayors in their hometown and discuss with them about they policies, including policy recommendations. During these events and the consulting stage, the new mayors were got a direct and forthright meetings and access to decision makers and senior officials.

Moreover, new tools and perspectives were delivered to mayors and on-going support in formulation of public policy.

Evaluation

The program based on an on-going evaluation process. We are doing it by three evaluating tools: formal feedbacks among participants, regular meetings with our partner – INJAZ Center and informal talks with mayors who participates the program.

According mid-feedback which we did after the three days' workshop, mayors gave 4.44

points out of 4.5 about their future recommendation to their colleague (other mayors) to take this program. 4.42 points out of 4.5 said that the workshop's lectures were professional and consist to lecture's topic. Moreover, 4.2 out of 4.5 said that the workshop contributed to their knowledge about critical local policies for Arab local government.

During regular meetings and discussions with our partner – INJAZ Center, as well as, our informal meetings and talks with mayors, we navigated the central topics which discussed in each event. Doing so, and by getting an on-going professional support from the streaming committee, the operational teams were progressed. After the "consulting package" will end, we will collect the consultants' reports and will interview mayors who were participated in this section. In the final meeting, which will take place in the end of December 2014, we will do a full-feedback about the program.

Others

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

The aim of the program is to train new elected mayors from the Arab local government in Israel, while 35 mayors are participating in our program. The total new mayors who elected in 2013 was 50 – it means that 70% of the target group was took part in the program. We consider also the pressure which new mayors face on and their tough schedule. Consider talks and discussions that we had with mayors and our partner, we think that the best way to continue, is to develop programs with focus on changeless of policy implementation in specific issues. We are developing in this days several programs which will focus minorities in Israel, specific the Arab local government.

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