

Message of H.E. Dan Ben ELIEZER,
Ambassador of the State of Israel
on the occasion of the
Inaugural Conference of the Center for Israeli Studies
- Bucharest, February 20, 2013 -

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear students,

I am delighted to participate today in the inaugural conference of the Center for Israeli Studies within the National University of Political Science and Public Administration. The Center is the first of its kind in Romania and it represents yet another example of the fruitful relations between Israel and Romania, which mark this year 65 years since their establishment.

The idea of establishing this Center was initially discussed with the Minister of Education, Mr. Remus Pricopie (in his previous capacity as the Rector of NUPSPA). Since then, the Embassy of Israel has been cooperating closely with NUPSPA in developing this Center.

I am proud to represent my country which is a young democratic state, viable and pluralistic, with a multi-cultural society, a strong economy and advanced technology. Although Israel has devoted many of its resources to defend its borders and residents from threats, it continues to extend its hand of peace to its neighbors and, in parallel, pursues the liberties and values to which it has always been fully committed.

Our two countries share the same principles and values. We maintained a long tradition of cooperation in various important domains such as: politics, economy, culture and academy.

In this respect, the academic cooperation has a significant importance since through this field the young generations have the opportunity to be exposed to diverse aspects of our respective countries.

I would like to thank the Minister Remus Pricopie, the Ad-Interim Rector - Ms. Alina Bârgăoanu, the Prorector - Ms. Liliana Popescu, the Dean - Mr. Cristian Pîrvulescu, Professor Liviu Rotman - the Director of the Center, for their determination and extensive work and efforts in establishing the Center and its activities.

I would also like to thank the distinguished professors from Israel and Romania who take part in this important conference. Their lectures will offer a comprehensive picture of the State of Israel and its society.

This conference is the first one in a series of joint activities which will lead to many more projects in the future.

Last but not least, dear students, this event will offer you a glimpse into Israeli studies and I hope that the future activities of the Center will enhance your desire to expand your knowledge about Israel!

Thank you!