

Press Release

Hebrew University ranked 65th among top 100 universities in world

Fourth in Asia Pacific region

Jerusalem, August 20, 2008 - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has been ranked 65th among the world's top 100 universities in the new Academic Ranking of World Universities issued by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China.

The Hebrew University was the only Israeli institution included in the top 100, and was ranked number one in Israel. Topping the list were American universities Harvard, Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley, MIT and Cambridge University in Britain.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University each year evaluates more than 2,000 universities in the world and ranks the top 500 among them. The rankings are based on a combined scale of academic criteria that include awards won by alumni and staff, articles published in leading scientific journals, and the number of highly cited researchers. The Chinese university's rankings have achieved respected international recognition.

Other Israeli universities fell into ranking categories below the top 100. Tel Aviv University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology were ranked at 151. The Weizmann Institute came in at 200. Bar Ilan University and Ben Gurion University of the Negev were ranked at 401.

In the category of the top universities in the Asia Pacific region, the Hebrew University was ranked fourth by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, just after Tokyo and Kyoto universities in Japan and the Australian National University.

Hebrew University President Prof. Menachem Magidor expressed his happiness at the news as well as his concerns, saying, "The fact that six Israeli universities are listed among the top 500 universities in the world with the Hebrew University ranked among the top 100 is most impressive when we take into account the size of Israel. However, without a solution to the acute crisis in which higher education in Israel is currently enmeshed, it will be impossible to maintain the status of Israeli academia in general and that of the Hebrew University in particular."

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About the Hebrew University

With 24,000 full-time students, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is Israel's pre-eminent institute of higher education. Its faculty members pursue projects that are both essential to Israel's future and the benefit of humanity. It is a centre of international repute, with formal and informal ties extending to and from the worldwide scientific and academic community. Students come from all over Israel and across the Middle East to study in an atmosphere of academic and research excellence.

About the British Friends of the Hebrew University (BFHU)

Established in 1926, The British Friends of the Hebrew University is the oldest established Jewish charity in support of higher education. The charity works to promote and enhance the reputation of the Hebrew University, ensure that underprivileged students are given the opportunity to complete their studies, and help HU to maintain its standard of excellence and worldwide reputation for research.

BFHU acts as the UK's gateway to Hebrew University research, expertise and faculty, and provides financial and pastoral support for prospective and current students at HU, as well as supporting visiting and sabbatical Hebrew University lecturers during their time in the UK.