

In 1999, Vivian Silver was appointed Executive Director of the fledgling organization, NISPED, joining Yehudah Paz, of blessed memory, its visionary founding chairman. From its beginnings the organization embraced a broad vision, setting for itself an ambitious mission.

During the past 14 years, the organization has grown significantly, becoming a central player in each of its targeted fields: the struggle for equality and empowerment of the Negev Arab Bedouin, the advancement of sustainable human development throughout the world, and the pursuit of peace between Israelis and Palestinians as well as in the Middle East region.

Together with Amal Elsana Alh'jooj who had founded AJEEC in 2001 and joined Vivian as co-executive director in 2008, Vivian played a central role in defining the organization's mission, in setting concrete goals and moreover, in translating vision into action. Vivian and Amal became an extraordinary team, complementing one another while building this unique Jewish-Arab organization.

After almost a decade and a half, Vivian has decided to step down as Co-Executive Director. The [AJEEC-NISPED](#) Board wishes to sincerely thank her for her uncompromising dedication and work. During her tenure, she has led AJEEC-NISPED to achievements that will continue to influence the organization for many years to come. Our future as a social change organization is promised as a result of her untiring work and the foundations that Vivian helped establish.

Vivian will maintain her association with the organization in a volunteer capacity while Amal will continue her part-time position as Director of North American Relations, along with pursuing her doctorate at McGill University in Canada.

The board is pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2014 Ariel Dloomy, our current Deputy Director will co-direct the organization with Kher Albaz who took over from Amal Elsana Alh'jooj last year.

During the past 7 years, Ariel has worked for the organization in diverse capacities. He holds an MSC in Middle East Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. He is an expert in the fields of community development and conflict resolution. He has initiated, developed and implemented large-scale social and economic development programming within the Bedouin community in the Negev as well as ground breaking cross-border programs in the Middle East and with developing countries. In 2012, he founded the Israeli chapter of SID, the Society for International Development.

With Ariel and Kher's leadership, we are confident that AJEEC-NISPED will continue to be the stellar organization it has become, initiating new programs and developing innovative models of social change, shared society building and equitable and sustainable development in Israel, the Middle East and globally.

Mully Dor, Chair of the Board  
AJEEC-NISPED