

## EDUCATION

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2000	Masters of Administrative Science, Fairleigh Dickinson University, U.S. <i>Verification Pending</i>
1990	ELKA Program - The Association for the Development and Advancement of Senior Personnel - a modular program for organization directors and elected officials <i>Verification Pending</i>
1977	LL.B, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Faculty of Law <i>Verification Pending</i>

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS

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### Current Positions

- Chairman of the Krayot City Planning Committee
- Chairman of the Constitution Law and Justice Committee at the Center for
- Local Governance - Legislation Liaison at the Knesset
- Judge of the World Zionist Movement's Supreme Court
- Member of the America - Israel Friendship League
- Amigur Board Member - Management of Assets for JAFI Housing Projects

- Member of the board for the Advancement of Post Elementary Education Association (dealing with the management of 7 high-schools for underprivileged gifted children)
- Member of the Board of Representatives of World ORT
- Member of the Nomination Committee of World ORT
- Member of the Allocation Committee of World ORT

#### **Past Positions**

- Chairman of the Board of Ha'Igud Society for Transfer of Technology 2003-2010. This is a foreign ministry's executive institution aimed at providing Israeli foreign aid to developing countries, and international co-operations (60 countries)
- Member of the Board of the Industrial Development Bank
- Member of the Absorption Ministry's New Immigrant Housing Committee
- Member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee for Societal and Economic Affairs
- Vice Chairman of the Center for Local Government
- Member of the committee negotiating with the government on matters of community and welfare budgets
- Vice President of the Sephardic World Congress

#### **LANGUAGES**

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Hebrew - Mother-tongue; English, Arabic - Fluent

## **CAREER DETAILS**

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**2003 - Present**

**Kiryat-Yam Municipality, Israel**

**Mayor, 3rd - 5th Terms**

Shmuel's tenure has focused on three distinct areas of activities during these terms:

### **1. Education**

After 3 terms of efforts in the fields of infrastructure improvement, finance consolidation and social activities organization, Shmuel has focused on developing the Municipal Education System, trying to bring it to Israel's highest level. A comprehensive program has been designed and implemented including finding donors and mobilising governmental agencies, Jewish organizations and other sources.

Millions of dollars have been raised, part of them with the help of World ORT. Facilities were improved, new schools and pre-schools built, new academic staff was hired, and more teaching hours were provided when needed. The education system has moved forward like other domains, bringing about an unprecedented educational revolution, with students reaching high achievements both on local and national levels. At the same time a modern educational campus, featuring a state-of-the-art science park, a planetarium and an oceanarium were built and are now functioning for the benefit of Kiryat-Yam's and other towns' residents.

### **2. Finance and Administration**

Shmuel succeeded in rescuing the city from a profound economic crisis, as it was at the brink of bankruptcy (60% deficit) following (a previous period of bad management). He subsequently received a national award from the Ministry of the Interior for balancing the municipal budget and also received the Interior Ministry's award for successful and proper management.

### **3. Urbanism and Leisure**

Among many other projects, Shmuel was responsible for envisioning and bringing about the construction of one of Kiryat-Yam's star attractions - the Kiryat-Yam Esplanade Avenue for the entire population of the northern region. This included:

- Development of new and prestigious neighborhoods such as Psagot Yam which received the "Best Planned neighborhood" award.
- Consequently, Kiryat-Yam has changed its image from a suburban neighborhood to the capital of the northern coast, and its real estate value has risen by hundreds of percentage points.



**2000 - 2003**

**Shinar, Shachor, Weisberger, & Co. Law Firm**  
**Partner**

The firm concentrated on international businesses, the stock market and large scale projects.

**1997 - 2000**

**Israeli Consul General - New York**

Shmuel served as the Director of the Foreign Ministry's largest consulate, responsible for over 120 employees. Running the consulate required not only the management of the staff but also maintaining the relationships with the strongest Jewish community in the world. Besides the management of the consulate, Shmuel concentrated on the following issues:

- Developing and maintaining an excellent relationship with the national Jewish organizations in the United States.
- Developing and maintaining the relationship with the New York business community and the national media.
- Raising and securing donations for different Israeli projects and ventures.
- Creating contacts with the city's academic and cultural communities, which facilitated the signing of a cultural exchange agreement between the State of Israel and the State of New York.
- Creating and maintaining relationships with government officials and public representatives in various states (governors, senators, mayors, etc.).
- Creating diplomatic and personal ties with diplomats and officials from various different countries.

**1989 - 1997**

**Kiryat-Yam Municipality**  
**Mayor, 1st - 2nd terms**

Shmuel's responsibilities included the general management and development of the city, but also the setting of a comprehensive and systematic vision for the future. He placed a special emphasis on cooperation and fostered a sense of mission among the employees (700 employees) on behalf of the city's residents.

During these terms, Kiryat-Yam's population grew from a population of 25,000 people to 50,000 people, including the successful absorption of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. Quick and courageous decisions had to be taken and transmitted to the Government on their readiness to tackle the problem of immigration absorption. During these terms Shmuel managed to turn this complex problem into leverage for developing the city. As a result, the city grew in a physical

sense with the construction of new neighborhoods, public buildings, schools, etc. alongside with building a healthy community.

**Major accomplishments during these terms included:**

- Education Ministry's National Award for increasing the number of students eligible for a matriculation diploma.
- National Award for Education to Levinson High School.
- A regional award from the Ministry of Education for best education in the region.
- Established a technological incubator in the city.
- Rodman High School was recognized as a college for practical engineers.
- Education Absorption awards for excellence.
- Established a conservatory and municipal orchestra which integrated hundreds of students from urban renewal neighborhoods. The orchestra represented the city of Kiryat-Yam in many prestigious competitions In Israel and abroad.
- First prize for excellence in environmental protection from the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

**1978 - 1989**

**Law Firm Founder**

Shmuel established this firm which specialized in real estate, corporate, business, public, banking and capital market law, and represented mortgage banks and public property companies.

**1969 - 1972**

**Military Service**

**IDF Engineering Brigade - Medic**

Captain in the reserves



## PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

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It would be easy to evaluate Shmuel Sisso as the Mayor of a town in northern Israel, which he is, but he has much more to his experience and talents, as demonstrated by his wider career and his many professional and public service affiliations.

Shmuel's career path can be summarized by 4 stages:

- A first decade as a young lawyer, gaining his professional qualifications and then setting up his own firm in Haifa.
- 9 years as twice-elected mayor of Kiryat Yam, his home town.
- Four years in New York as Consul-General in Israel's largest consulate, responsible for 120 staff and for some of the most critical relationships with Jewish and other organizations, followed by three years in a New York law firm.
- Most recently, 10 years as re-elected Mayor of Kiryat Yam after local and governmental requests to "rescue the city" - most recently elected with 85% of the votes across all sides of the political spectrum.

Shmuel has demonstrated strong strategic leadership many times during his career, including the occasion he stood up to then-PM Ariel Sharon over housing plans for Russian immigrants to Kiryat Yam, launching a permanent housing plan instead of temporary caravans, and dealing with complex challenges for Jews in America during his time in New York.

He has also had demonstrable success as a consensus-builder, for example securing cross-party support from both right-wing religious parties and left-wing/liberal and secular groups for his most recent mayoral election campaign, resulting in his 85% vote success.

Shmuel's international experience includes close cooperation with twin cities of Kiryat Yam in Hungary, Germany and France, and close cooperation with Russia, in addition to many international visits representing World ORT around the world.

Shmuel has been strongly committed to education and training. In addition to his prominent role within World ORT, as Chairman of Ha'Igud Society for Transfer of Technology for 7 years, Shmuel was involved in working with third world countries in 60 countries. He is currently a member of the board for the Advancement of Post Elementary Education helping to manage 7 high schools for underprivileged gifted children.

Shmuel has led many fundraising efforts both in Israel and in the US. An example is his "1 computer per child" project, in cooperation with the Israeli PM and Foreign Minister and others, which raised \$1m from wealthy individuals.

Finally an example of Shmuel's business management and budgetary expertise is his taking over of the direct running of five schools in Kiryat Yam. Whereas the previous mayor spent 5% of the schools budget on the management fees, and the best external quotation was for 8%, Shmuel took it over directly and has saved the money at the same time achieving high quality results.

#### **PERSONAL BACKGROUND/CULTURAL FIT**

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In personal terms, Shmuel is a charismatic, energetic and passionate executive. He is eager to transfer these skills to a new situation and believes passionately in the vision and mission of World ORT. He has proved himself creative and innovative in many of his roles. From contacts we have explored, he has a strong reputation as an excellent leader, and a firm but supportive manager of his team.

#### **GAP ANALYSIS**

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Shmuel's current primary role in running the town of Kiryat Yam is very different from leading a global organization such as World ORT. However his very wide range of additional roles, and his past international background, demonstrate his capability to bring his skills successfully to World ORT. He has somewhat less experience of fundraising than some other candidates, and would need to ensure that those around him can support this effort.

#### **SUMMARY**

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Shmuel's personal situation has changed in that unfortunately his wife died recently after a long illness. With his children now grown-up and independent, he feels this is a great opportunity to move to London and undertake a fresh challenge. Given his passion for World ORT and his extensive range of experience and skills, Shmuel represents a very interesting option as potential CEO/Director-General.