



Tech-Career Newsletter | April 2017 Quarter 1

Message from Naphtali Avraham, Executive Director

Passover is a season of transition and this year Tech-Career has embarked on an exciting journey. We left Kibbutz Nachshon, our home in the country and moved to Lod, a city in central Israel in the process of urban renewal. Change demands risk, but we are meeting new challenges and we believe that the rewards will be significant. We would like to thank you, our friends and partners, for the support and encouragement that will enable us to strive to reach new heights. We would also like to convey our deep gratitude to Attorney Yair Revivo, Mayor of Lod, for all his support and faith in our mission.

We look forward to expanding all aspects of our endeavours – with a greater number of students to enroll in a growing number of courses planned to meet the needs of Israel's high-tech industries. We also believe that we have an important contribution to make to the city of Lod, and we are forging partnerships with municipal authorities, business leaders and likeminded NGOs. We will draw on our extensive experience to enhance our impact on the Ethiopian-Israeli community, the city of Lod and Israeli society at large.

I am grateful to our hard-working staff, our caring board of directors, and our philanthropic partners in Israel and throughout the world. Each one of you is playing a significant role in helping us to realize our vision. We look forward to seeing you at our new home!

Happy Passover to you all,

Naphtali Avraham

Greetings from Yair Revivo, Mayor of Lod

It is a privilege for the city of Lod to welcome Tech-Career, an outstanding NGO which has had an enormous influence on Ethiopian-Israelis and Israeli society at large.

We believe that Tech-Career will play a key leadership role in our city's Ethiopian-Israeli community – and will also reach out to Lod's diverse communities. We are certain that Tech-Career students who engage in volunteer endeavors will make a tremendous contribution to our city.

In recent years, Lod's urban renewal has attracted high-tech firms to our city, and Tech-Career graduates will find exciting career opportunities in our city.

At the moment, Tech-Career's campus is a temporary abode, with classrooms in the Telrad complex and dormitories in the Ayalim student village. But land has been allocated to create a permanent home for Tech-Career and we look forward to the construction of this new campus. We look forward to a bright future together.

Attorney Yair Revivo

Mayor of Lod

New Courses Underway

Three leading courses serving 66 students are now underway at Tech-Career's new campus. In October 2016, a Data Security Course in collaboration with Bynet Data Communications was launched for the first time in the history of Tech-Career. This new course has a high market relevance and we hope it will achieve high placement rates.

On March 20th, 2017 Tech-Career launched a Web Development course (800 hours). Eight of the 22 participants are women, reflecting Tech-Career's commitment to advancing Ethiopian-Israeli women in STEM careers.

On April 4th, 2017 Tech-Career launched a new course in JAVA Language Software (800 hours) which will provide students with training in one of the lead software programs utilized in internet technology.

Courses in QA and CCNP are also on the agenda for this year.

With Tech-Career's syllabus expanding, we are excited to share that Ayala Fardo joined our team as a course coordinator. Ayala shares our vision and brings to Tech-Career her vast experience in education and instruction.



Hand-in-Glove with Israel's High-Tech Industry

One-Million-Dollar Gift from Microsoft

Microsoft contributed more than a million-dollars' worth of software and licenses to Tech-Career. This gift will contribute to quality laboratory training that will further bolster students' success during their rigorous learning process.



Mentorship Program & Site Tours

Students enrolled in the data security course in collaboration with Bynet Data Communications will receive the support of volunteer mentors drawn mainly from IBM and Checkpoint (whose employees constitute 60% of all mentors for this class!).

These two firms are long-time collaborators with Tech-Career, and the executives who serve as mentors to students play a pivotal role in ensuring their smooth integration into promising careers in the industry. Also important to note is that students in the course have toured major high-tech firms such as CISCO and Checkpoint, and that they are expected to tour IBM soon; thank you all for welcoming our students and enabling them to experience the high-tech industry first hand!



New Partnership Forged with IATI

The Israeli Association of Technology Industries, the umbrella organization for some 700 firms, incubators and accelerators, is a new partner to Tech-Career and invited alumni to participate in its fifth annual "weekathon" of social-tech programs advanced with prominent international firms from E-Bay and Motorola to Nokia and Siemens.

The poster for the IATI Social Impact Weekathon Demo Day is set against a white background with a blue border. At the top, it features the IATI logo (a stylized 'i' and 't' with a globe) and the text 'Israel Advanced Technology Industries Social Impact'. Below this, a red banner reads 'IATI Social Impact Weekathon' and a blue banner reads 'Demo Day'. The date and time are listed as 'March 30th, 14:30-16:30'. A row of logos for Motorola, HP, Siemens, Nokia, and eBay follows. The text 'The Final Presentations!' is in bold, followed by a paragraph: '28 developers from 7 R&D centers working together to co-innovate project in the field of social impact technologies join us to see their final demos'. Below that, it says 'HPE SW Office - Altshef 5 Yehud, M3 Building, 11th floor' and 'Parking will be available at the Shufersal parking lot. Seats are limited and registration is required'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'For more information, please contact: tsanegri@ati.co.il, 070-726232' and a red button that says 'For free registration click here'. Logos for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health are at the very bottom.

Alumni Forum: A New Step Forward in Advancing Tech-Career

When Tech-Career was founded in 2002, there were only four Ethiopian-Israelis working in Israel's high-tech industries. In 2017, over 500 graduates of Tech-Career are pursuing professional careers in their fields. We are enlisting a core group of these professionals in a new forum, which we believe will have a three-fold value: (1) create a peer group to provide guidance and support for our graduates as they confront challenges in pursuing a high-tech career; (2) give graduates the means to "give back" by counseling potential students and mentoring current students, and offer a model for leadership and social inclusion; and (3) lay the foundations for a systemic and methodical integration of Tech-Career's alumni in its operations. Such a program is vital at this turning point in the evolution of Tech-Career as we are in the midst of developing our new campus in the city of Lod. We have already enlisted 30 graduates to form a strategic think-tank which will shape our alumni forum; we expect great things of them!



Pay it Forward: Tech-Career students volunteer

An important advantage of Tech-Career's move to Lod is the opportunity for students to participate in the city's urban renewal as community-based volunteers. Tech-Career students volunteer in a range of endeavors, including the provision of tutoring for students in Lod's underserved schools. Volunteers make a weekly commitment of two hours, and are already making a tangible and appreciated difference in the community. Community engagement is one of the major values we would like to instill in our graduates, as the next leaders of the Ethiopian-Israeli community.



Tech-Career Graduate and Partner Share their Experiences

Thirty one year-old Naftali Zaro is among the five Tech-Career graduates who have been placed at Essence Group, a leading international provider of wireless-based systems for residential and business applications, which has deployed over 12 million devices globally. Naftali credits Tech-Career for the comprehensive preparation and support he received in launching his career – from mentoring to job simulations and the training that prepared him for the challenges of employment in a cutting edge international high-tech firm.

COO at Essence Group, Haim Shechter says that he was very impressed with Tech-Career's work. All the five Tech-Career graduates he recruited to date have demonstrated great motivation and desire to contribute to the company. This is a partnership that will continue in the years to come, says Haim.



**HAPPY PASSOVER
TO OUR FRIENDS AND
PARTNERS**