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Taiwanese youths head to Israel

*Raphael Gamzou gives the participants
a pep talk before they board a flight to Tel Aviv*

By SHANTELE CHIU AND D. BRUYAS
The China Post

Five young people from Taiwan will be departing to Israel today to attend an international ecology and summer leadership program under the cooperation of Israel Economic & Cultural Office in Taipei (ISECO) and Taiwan's National Youth Commission (NYC 行政院青輔會).

Chang Hsin-yu (張心宇), Cheng Yu-shun (鄭宇舜), Lin Yun (林昀), Chen Wan-shiuan (陳宛瑄) and Hsieh Feng-ho (謝丰禾) are being sent off to far away Hakefar-Hayarok (Green Village) in Israel from August 9 to August 16.

The program will include workshops, adventure and ecological activities, trips to Israel's Museums and popular tourist attractions and other cultural activities, and also will be a platform for each participant to provide a glimpse into his or her local culture.

ISECO reportedly contacted the NYC with an offer to send a youth delegation from Taiwan to Israel in order to participate in the program organized by Israel's National Council for Youth Exchange that focuses on the themes of ecology and youth leadership.

The NYC recommended five youths, most of them with volunteering background in animal or environmental protection, from different universities, schools, and organization to participate in this program.

All accommodation expenses are sponsored by the Israeli Youth Council.

Raphael Gamzou, representative of the ISECO in Taipei, recently invited the youths to a meeting in which they introduced themselves and their volunteer works.

Gamzou expressed hope that the success of this trip will help to promote the signing of a mutual youth-exchange MOU between Taiwan and Israel. He also shared with the students his experience as a volunteer, as he himself and his wife take part in recycling and other volunteer activities of the Hualien-based Tzu-Chi Organization.

In related news, ISECO announced last week that a young Taiwanese dancer will also be leaving for Israel soon.

Lee Chen-wei (李貞葳) will join Batsheva Dance Company, Israel's internationally acclaimed dance group, and will participate in the group's performance during 2009-2010 season. She is a former member of the Lan Yang Dance Group (蘭陽舞蹈團) and a graduate of the Arts Dance Department of National Taipei University (國立台北藝術大學舞蹈系).

Batsheva was founded in 1964 and is now considered one of the top modern dance troupes in the world.

For further information on activities organized by the
Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei,
please log on to <http://www.iseco.org.tw/>



Courtesy of ISECO

Raphael Gamzou, left, representative of the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, stands with Taiwanese dancer Lee Chen-wei, who was selected to join Batsheva Dance Company, Israel's internationally acclaimed dance group.