

**Dr. Mints speech – Eilat-Eilot Conference**

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to the opening of the Renewable Energy Conference. The conference program is full of interesting reports, covering the main directions of development of renewable energy sources. I am confident that we will participate in interesting discussions.

More than three years ago, I founded an Institute dedicated to finding strategic solutions to global challenges in Tel Aviv University. One of the main directions of interdisciplinary research at the Institute is renewable energy. If we look at the situation in the energy sector as a whole, we will see the following fundamental changes that have occurred over the last 2-3 years:

First, in 2018, more than 170 countries in the world created programs to support renewable energy, whereas in 2006 there were only 45 such countries. What does more than 170 countries mean? This means that virtually all countries of the world have come to the same conclusion - renewable energy is a fundamental direction of energy development at the present time. The discussion is over. The figures confirm this conclusion: since 2015, the volume of renewable energy capacity growth has exceeded the volume of traditional energy capacity growth. The growth of investments in renewable energy is also ahead of the growth of investments in traditional energy.

Second, from my point of view, the development of renewable energy is not the beginning of the funeral process for traditional energy. If we look at the dynamics of the level of consumption of coal, peat and wood in the energy sector over the past 50-70 years, we will see that consumption has not decreased in quantitative terms, not looking at the dawn of the oil and gas era in this period. It is obvious that

traditional energy has a huge potential for development, but now the development will take place in the new macro-economic conditions, in conditions of fierce competition with the growing strength of non-traditional energy.

At the same time, it is important to note that the development of renewable energy, as well as other types of non-traditional energy, except for the creation of a competitive environment, which in itself is extremely important for any market, will ensure a more uniform and dynamic economic development of countries in which there are no natural resources used in traditional energy.

Our Institute, in its activities, attaches great importance to cooperation with various partners, particularly with research and development centers that carry out projects aimed at solving practical problems in the areas in which the Institute conducts its research, considering the economic, political and social aspects. An outstanding example of such cooperation is our interaction with Elat-Eilat Renewable Energy Center, and its CEO, Dorit Banet. Our experience of such cooperation on the problem of clean water and desertification, Food Security and Sustainable Development, says that it is very enriching both research and its participants. I am sure that our cooperation with EERC will continue to be fruitful. I want to wish you all a good busy day, thank you for your attention.