**East Tour Feedback – Russia**

**Inbal**

1. Was the aim of the East tour to gain an understanding of the culture, national security interests and implications for Israel, achieved in the tour?

We have certainly been exposed to Russia's culture and Russia's national security strategy, as well as the implications for Israel. Of course it is not possible in only one preparation week or one tour week to fully understand the Russian Enigma in depth in these areas.

2. Was the preparatory phase adequately structured towards achieving the tour?

The preparatory stage certainly contributed to building an early understanding of the tour's goals. It was serious, but not overloaded.

3. In hindsight do you have any recommendations to revise the preparatory phase by way of topics or speakers or experiences to be added or discarded?

The preparatory stage and the research questions were built around the four axes familiar to us. Most of the speakers were Israeli professionals engaged in (or were engaged in Russia). Arkady Milman's economic lecture was weak in my eyes. It seems that the Foreign Ministry has more knowledge of the economic ties between Israel and Russia. You can try to bring someone from the department of political research at the ministry to prepare a lecture by someone from the Russian side so that we can get more prepared for how things look on their side, perhaps from the Russian embassy in Israel.

4. Were the pillars of national security adequately exposed during the tour? Did you practically experience the various facets or learned during talks only?

The four axes were exposed in our corners. The majority is through lectures rather than through practical work. The side of Russian culture was received from tours in Moscow - the Victory Museum, Kremlin, etc.

5. Was the duration of the tour adequate or do you recommend increase/ decrease. Suggest events, visits or talks which you would have wished to be included or discarded?

The tour was very enjoyable, well built and taught well. In retrospect, two things were lacking for me - a meeting with political figures (as opposed to professional government officials) and something about what is happening outside of Moscow. It is clear that because of time constraints there was a problem getting further away from Moscow. Perhaps it can be achieved by a documentary film (if one exists) about life far from Moscow or on the territory beyond the Ural Mountains. How, for example, does Russia's border area look like with China, Mongolia, North Korea, etc.?

6. Do you think that the group sizes were adequate or need smaller groups visiting a wider variety of countries?

I think the size of the teams was good. Of course, I would not divide my turnover into more than four policies.

**Alon**

**Position Paper - East Tour**

Given the fact that we are dealing with the Great Powers, and given the fact that we have devoted only two weeks to dealing with these powers, our methodological aspirations should be modest and defined as a level of "recognition" (the basic, lowest level of understanding, expertise, or control).

1. **Meeting goals** – In general, the tour achieved its purpose, contributed to understanding the Chinese interests and different ways of thinking, and contributed to the knowledge of Chinese culture, which affects, among other things, its conduct in the international arena.
2. **The preparation stage and the BATAM case** - the preparation as a whole was good, but in retrospect it helped us learn "China we met" rather than "the other China." We focused on the Party and the cities with a slight touch on the minority, while more than a billion non-party members In the future, that huge, ill-advised group could not bring about a radical change to the point of revolution in China, and we have also dealt extensively with the China-US-Israel triangle. However, China's other challenges, such as the emerging markets of Indonesia, Vietnam, India and other countries in the East, have not been addressed, nor are challenges from developed neighbors such as Japan and Korea. In addition to these two issues, China's "social leg" and the "political leg" in the regional arena seem to have been inadequately dealt with, and it may be that instead of dividing the tour time between Beijing and Hong Kong, Mainland, to experience the "other China."
3. **Duration of the tour** - it will not be serious on our part to pretend to understand and even recognize the superpowers on the scale of India, China and Russia in a week's preparation time and five days tour. Therefore, the obvious answer to the question "Is the time enough"? Must be negative. At the same time, we must minimize the tour's goals and adjust them for the specified time. A question that can be discussed is whether it is right to hold three tours abroad and "tasted everything" (Europe, East and US), or reduce the number of tours for one or two trips, and thicken each section in a few days of preparation.
4. **The size of the group** - there is no doubt that the group that was smaller than the plenum contributes to attention. The smaller the group, the better the learning aspect, and a group of up to ten participants is the ultimate group. In the context of the East Tour, this will require splitting from three groups into at least four groups.

For the avoidance of doubt, the comments and recommendations for improvement that have been raised are nullified in relation to the contribution of the tour and the manner in which it was carried out.

Regards,

**Alon Madanes**

**Guy Levi**

1. The goal of understanding the culture was achieved well in relation to the time allotted for the tour and preparation. There is no doubt that a very broad recognition of the very rich Chinese culture takes much more than a week. However, I am impressed that it has been made a good recognition of the culture..
2. From a relative perspective, China-Israel believes that there is a very deep and balanced understanding of the risks and opportunities that these relations pose to Israel.
3. The preparation stage was right-built and includes a rich and teaching lecture that had prepared us well for the quality of the preparation to be well trained during the tour.
4. As for the preparations, I think it is right to bring in security personnel who could not arrive this year, like Amos Gilad or Efraim Halevi
5. During the tour, all aspects of national security were touched. The same goes in preparation
6. The well-planned tour of the planning and accompaniment of the military attaché in China
7. . Was required to ensure companion of the Hong Kong Foreign Ministry. Recommend not to coordinate anything for the landing evening due to the load.
8. I believe that a division into four groups rather than three will constitute a smaller and more qualitative group

**Kobi**

**East Tour**

**Question 1**: The applicability of what we learned in the East tour with regard to Israel: India today is a regional power and has the potential to become a world-class power that will have a significant impact on the world within a few decades. Therefore, studying the aspects of Indian national security is of great significance to Israel, already in the present range and even more so in the future. During the tour, we reached an understanding of the importance of Israel to a country such as India, both in terms of marketing security and military capabilities provided by the Israeli defense industry, and in the civilian areas in which Israel has world-leading water and agriculture, which strengthens the political axis in Israel's national security. It is very important to understand a different national security culture in many characteristics. These aspects were achieved during the tour**.**

**Questions 2 + 3:** Preparation for the tour: As a rule, the preparation was very good. It would have been more correct to talk about the social axis in India, which is very important for understanding Indian culture, which has a significant impact on the challenges of Indian national security. A lecture by the participant from India (Raju) was very important for understanding Indian national security, because it was given from an Indian and not an Israeli perspective**.**

**Question 4:** The experience with the dimensions of Indian national security: As mentioned above, it would have been better to strengthen the social axis in India, which contains much more complexities than Israel. Nevertheless, India succeeds in finding equilibrium between all the complexities of different religions, Cities and more. It would have been better to introduce us to Muslims, to villagers, and to lower class people in order to better understand what connects them to the state. It would also be preferable to elaborate on the relations between India and China in the military, political, economic and social aspects, as China poses a major threat to Indian national security. The economic aspect was too narrow and less concerned with India's challenges in the economic axis of national security, which would have made it possible to better understand the challenges facing India in the coming years. The stock market tour was less effective in order to study the economic axis**.**

**Question 5: Length of tour and contents:** The tour was too short. The private part at the beginning, the visit to Jaipur, added a lot to the tour and it was good that most of the group experienced it. Visiting the Indian NDC was very important. It was also right to receive a lecture by an Indian lecturer on Israel and not just by the Israeli ambassador to Indi

**Question 6: Group size and assembly:** The group appears to be of the correct size but not in the right mix. Most of it consisted of civilians and internationals. It would be more correct that a large part of the group will also be composed ofIsraeli military personnel.