

International Conference on Math and Science Teacher Education

Partnerships between institutions of higher education and schools are essential in educating teachers. Oranim hosted an international conference exploring school-based teacher training in math and science.



Over 200 people from all over Israel and abroad gathered at Oranim on September 7th – 9th for a fascinating and interactive conference entitled, **Math and Science Teacher Education: Academic and Practical Perspectives on School-based Teacher Training.**

In the last two years, several colleges in Israel have instituted math and science high school teacher education programs that emphasize school-based teacher training. In light of the importance of this kind of teacher training, and the plan to expand the number of such programs in the coming year, this conference explored insights and dilemmas relating to school-based teacher training.

Diverse Participants from the U.S. and Israel

The conference was sponsored by the Trump Foundation, which aims to improve educational achievement in Israel in math and science. The conference included three days of workshops, lectures, panels, and discussion groups. Special guests from the United States were Prof. Jon R. Star of Harvard University, Prof. Sharon Feiman-Nemser of Brandeis University, and Dr. Roberta Trachtman of New Visions for Public Schools.

Participants in the conference were from a wide range of education related fields, including novice and veteran teachers, school administrators, policy makers from the Ministry of Education, and faculty and students from colleges all over Israel.

Key Questions in Teacher Education

Some of the key questions explored during the conference included: How can institutions of higher education, schools, and government work together to improve teacher education? What is good mentoring? How can we best train veteran teachers to mentor novice teachers? What are the specific challenges of math and science teacher education and how can we address them? The conference enabled participants to gain new insights into these questions and to develop partnerships to tackle these questions and others.