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Three birds with one stone

THE ANNUAL Herzliya Conference provides world figures with an excellent means of killing two or even three birds with one stone. For instance, UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, who was interested in coming to this part of the world to meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in the hope of creating a breakthrough in the effort to resume the peace talks, addressed the Herzliya Conference Thursday. While in this part of the woods, he obviously took the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, among others.

The conference, now in its 12th year and held under the auspices of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, has become such a prestigious event that everyone who is anyone wants to be there. As a sidebar to the conference, the Czech Government is donating NIS 2 million to IDC Herzliya for the establishment of the Masaryk Distinguished Chair that will honor the memory of the first Czechoslovak President Tomas Garrigue Masaryk. The inauguration, which took place on Wednesday, February 1, within the framework of the Herzliya Conference, also celebrated the 85th anniversary of Masaryk's historic journey to the land of Israel.

The purpose for endowing the chair is to encourage the study of eminent Czech scholars and researchers in the fields of social sciences and humanities, including political science, international relations, strategic and security studies, sociology, economics, business, psychology, media and journalism, Jewish studies, history and cultural studies and to promote lectures relating to these studies. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic **Karel Schwarzenberg**, Deputy Foreign Minister **Danny Ayalon**, chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship League with the Czech Republic MK **Doron Avital**, president of the IDC Herzliya Prof. **Uriel Reichman** and rector of Masaryk University Prof.

Mikulas Bek. The Masaryk Distinguished Chair is a joint project of the Czech Masaryk University and the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. A kibbutz, a street, and a restaurant are among the various landmarks in Israel that bear Masaryk's name.

