

# Chinese enrollment at Israel universities on the rise

## Deal proves growing strength of relationship between the two countries, University of Haifa says

• By SARAH LEVI

The influx of Chinese students at Israeli universities has been growing steadily in recent years.

On the forefront of this enrollment boom is the University of Haifa, which currently boasts some 200 Chinese students among its student body, compared to 20 in 2013, representing a 1,000% increase.

A majority of these students come from the University of East China Normal University in Shanghai, which is a sister city of Haifa.

University of Haifa president Ron Robin welcomes the addition. "The cooperation with strategic partners from Chinese industry and academia serves the strategic goals of the university," said Robin. "We have positioned ourselves as a leading international institution. As such, we welcome all the Chinese students to Israel, and intend to continue to deepen the ties and cooperation with the Chinese academy."

These ties can result in profitable research and development in which millions of dollars are currently being invested in the hopes to further strengthen the bonds between the two countries.

This past March, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Economy Minister Eli Cohen were present when Robin, along with the Hangzhou Wahaha Group and the Institute of Automation at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, signed a \$10-million deal that finalized the construction of three Israeli-Chinese artificial intelligence technology centers in Haifa, Hangzhou and Beijing.

According to the university, this deal "proved the growing strength of the relationship between the two countries."

But the university insists that there's a lot in it for the students as well, saying that "the Chinese love Haifa's location that combines mountains and sea, and

are very impressed by the city's large high-tech complex."

And it's not just science-based courses that are attracting the students to Haifa, according to a statement released by the university. "In general, Chinese students are particularly interested in the disciplines for which the University of Haifa has developed unique programs: maritime studies, public health, medical clowning, art therapy, education, national security studies and the English-speaking Global Green MBA, focusing on sustainability and ecological-friendly development – two of the main economic challenges in China."

Across town, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology has also seen an influx of Chinese students in recent years. During the 2016-2017 academic year, the school had 117 full-time Chinese students, and 177 Chinese students enrolled in its summer school of engineering.

The Technion has been intensifying its academic cooperation with Chinese universities and students, and in 2013, together with Shantou University (STU), received a \$130m. grant from the Li Ka Shing Foundation to establish a branch of the Technion in the Guangdong Province.

The Technion hailed the partnership as "a new era of research and innovation in science, engineering and life sciences, an unprecedented cooperation between the People's Government of Guangdong Province and Shantou Municipal Government, Technion, and STU."

The highly anticipated addition to the Technion is scheduled to open its doors in October. Some 240 students from several provinces in China have enrolled for study at the Technion branch, which offers three engineering programs: chemical, material science and biotechnology and food engineering. Preparatory studies begin this month and the first semester begins in October.



CHINESE STUDENTS studying at the University of Haifa pose recently for a photograph at the Powerball Center in Rehovot. (John Roxborough)

# Zionist feminists shunned at SlutWalk Chicago

About a dozen Zionist feminist activists participated in SlutWalk Chicago despite opposition to their presence.

The Zioness group had announced that it would join the annual demonstration Saturday against sexual violence to promote the idea that Zionism and progressive values are compatible.

SlutWalk Chicago organizers said prior to the march that they did not support the Zioness initiative's participation.

"SlutWalk Chicago does not support the 'Zioness progressives' planning on coming to the walk Saturday. We at SlutWalk Chicago stand with Jewish people, just as we stand for Palestinian human rights. Those two ideologies can exist in the same realm, and taking a stance against antisemitism is not an affirmation of support for the State of Israel and its occupation of Palestine," the group wrote on its Facebook page.

"We oppose all oppressive governments whether they be the United States or Israel, as we recognize these regimes often disproportionately oppress women and femmes. We find it disgusting that any group would appropriate a day dedicated to survivors fighting rape culture in order to promote their own nationalist agenda."

The women joined a rally ahead of the march in a local park. According to reports, they carried signs depicting a woman wearing a Star of David necklace and in some cases wore rainbow-colored T-shirts emblazoned with a Star of David. When



WOMEN PARTICIPATE in the annual SlutWalk Chicago march against sexual violence last August. (Screenshot)

they waved their signs, other SlutWalk participants blocked them from view with the red umbrellas they were carrying as a symbol of solidarity with sex workers.

At the end of the speeches, which concluded with a Palestinian activist telling the crowd "you cannot be a Zionist and feminist," the crowd began chanting "Free Palestine," the

*Windy City Times* reported.

Zioness participants and others dropped out during the march through downtown Chicago, according to the *Windy City Times*. The march reportedly started with about 150 women and ended with about 60.

In front of Trump Tower, marchers stopped to destroy a replica of US President Donald Trump's head. Toward

the end of the march, some participants scuffled with police, leading five of them to be arrested.

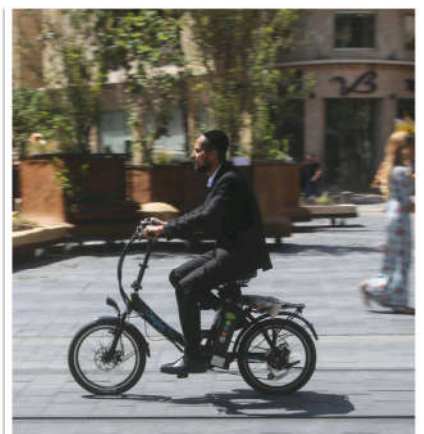
Organizers of the SlutWalk initially said they would ban Stars of David from the event, but later altered their policy to allow religious symbols but not national flags.

The SlutWalk policy came in the wake of a controversy over the Chicago Dyke March in June, when three Jewish participants at the LGBTQ demonstration were ejected for carrying LGBTQ Pride flags adorned with the Star of David. Dyke March organizers said the women were advocating for Israel at an anti-Zionist event.

On Friday, SlutWalk Chicago released a statement titled "Palestinian Rights are a Feminist Cause."

"As a feminist, transnational movement calling for an end to rape culture, we march in solidarity with all Palestinians suffering the impact of the State of Israel's brutal policies. The reasons for this are simple. In the words of Linda Sarsour, one of the architects of the 2017 Women's March who also organized A Day Without a Woman, 'You either stand up for the rights of all women, including Palestinians, or none.' In a nutshell, women's rights are human rights," the statement said.

"If the rights of Palestinians are degraded by the State of Israel's policies across the whole territory they control – including the West Bank as well as Gaza, where Israel controls all entry and exit in this 10th year of military blockade – the treatment of Palestinian women is particularly dehumanizing." (JTA)



A MAN rides an e-bike in Jerusalem. (Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

# Injured model's condition improves after e-bike accident

## Growing injury toll for electric scooters during summer vacation

• By JUDY SIEGEL

The medical condition of 23-year-old model Shomit Malka, who fell from her electric scooter on Sunday while riding down Tel Aviv's Rothschild Boulevard, has improved significantly.

Malka arrived at Sourasky Medical Center's emergency room in serious condition, was ventilated and put under anesthesia.

She woke on Monday, was pronounced in good condition and was transferred from the intensive care unit to a regular department.

Malka was not wearing a helmet while riding the scooter, even though it is required by law.

According to traffic safety organization Or Yarak, only 2% of riders of electric bicycles, scooters, hoverboards and other two-wheeled vehicles wear protective helmets, and many are below the 16-year-old age limit. In addition, most stores selling the vehicles fail to brief customers on age and safety limits as well as how to ride safely, even though they are required to do so, Or Yarak said.

Last year, 10 Israelis were killed while riding such vehicles, and over 540 people were hospitalized for injuries.

Petah Tikva's Schneider Children's Medical Center said yesterday that there has been a sharp increase in accidents involving children and electric two-wheeled vehicles since the

# Draft of Declaration of Independence can be sold, J'lem District Court rules

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

A draft of the Declaration of Independence is not the property of the state and can be sold, the Jerusalem District Court ruled on Sunday.

In November 2015, the Kedem Auction House listed an April 27, 1948, draft of the declaration written by Mor-

dechai was legally state property.

As such, the state claimed that Baum's sons, Daniel and Refael, had no private property right to the draft, could not sell it and that it must be turned over to be placed in the National Archives.

Rejecting the state's arguments, Judge Tamar Bazak-Rapoport wrote that

li independence was and is state property, Bazak-Rapoport said there was no legal claim the state could make on drafts of the declaration if Mordechai had been a volunteer at the time.

In addition, though at a later date Mordechai did join the Justice Ministry, the court did not think that all drafts

was a state employee when he wrote the draft, this delay blocked the state from claiming the document was too historically significant to allow it be publicly auctioned.

Finally, the court said that the state's fears of losing the document were exaggerated even that the sons had





dechai Baum in its catalog of items which would soon be up for auction.

The state obtained a court order freezing the auctioning of the declaration, claiming that Baum had been a state employee and that the draft not only had critical national significance but

the sons had presented evidence that Mordechai was not a state employee but a volunteer at the time that he wrote the draft, in the weeks before there was a Jewish state.

While the final declaration used in the May 14, 1948, announcement of Israe-

of documents that employees bring home with them are necessarily state property.

Furthermore, the court criticized the state for decades of delay in pursuing collection of the draft when its existence was no secret.

Along with the absence of evidence that Mordechai

committed to selling it only to a public institution, and only to one that committed to keeping the draft within the country's borders.

THE DECLARATION  
OF INDEPENDENCE.  
(Wikimedia Commons)



summer vacation began.

Prof. Yehezkel Weissman, head of the emergency medicine department, said that electric two-wheeled vehicles have been linked to a growing number of injuries and even deaths, and also minimize the amount of exercise that overweight children get.

He urged parents to ensure their children wear helmets and knee pads when riding such vehicles, and that they not be used below the permissible ages. In addition, he said they should not be ridden in the streets or after dark.