

Bridge to the WORLD

New international school opens

By Amanda Jaffe-Katz

The first intake of 23 students in the newly launched International School of Engineering (ISE) made its debut on campus at the end of July. Greeted by Dean of the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Prof. Arnon Bentur, the group of young students were introduced to campus life and learned about each other. The international

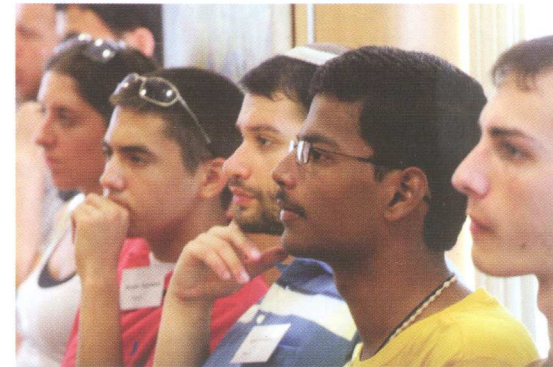
"pioneers" – as Bentur called them – hail from 15 countries on five continents. At the festive ceremony launching the school, Bentur said that this group represents "the nucleus for realizing the vision of establishing an international school in all the fields of engineering at Technion," at which 1,000 students from all corners of the world will study within a decade.

Following a week of orientation on campus and in the country, the students will commence their 4-month intensive preparation course before starting the 4-year study program that will award them the BSc degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. All studies will be conducted in English. The Academic Head of the program, Prof. Amnon Katz, explained that the first year of instruction will be dedicated to basic science after which studies will move gradually into the multidisciplinary topics

within the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "We have allocated you tutors and have translated all the material for you, laying the best infrastructure to ensure your success," he told the students. Katz added, "We will turn graduates of the program into leaders in their field and ambassadors of goodwill for Israel."

Shayma Sharif, age 18, who lives in East Jerusalem, said that she was recruited from her high school. Fjordi Bisha and Andi Basha, classmates from Albania, just completed their final school exam at home days before coming here to embark on their new studies at Technion. Akshay Vajpayee, age 18 from India, said that although he was accepted to the well-known Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) he chose Technion as it is "a top-class university."

"We're very glad that you are here," said ISE Director, Ariel Geva, as he welcomed the inaugural group and outlined the special extracurricular activities that he has lined up for them. "You will receive individualized mentoring in academic and social areas and a hands-on program for getting to know Israeli society and the country."



Akshay Vajpayee (*second from right*), and fellow students at the International School of Engineering