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## Presidents of Micronesia and Nauru visit Israel, expand ties

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President Peres welcomes the President of Micronesia Emmanuel Mori (Photo: JINI/Emil Salman)

The Presidents, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ambassadors of the Pacific Island nations of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Nauru arrived in Israel (20 January 2010) for a nearly week-long visit to enhance their relationship with Israel and expand ties between these long-standing and important allies.

The trip, inaugurated by official invitation by Israeli President Shimon Peres, is being implemented under the auspices of Project Interchange, an institute of the American Jewish Committee, in collaboration with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During their visit, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Mr. Emanuel Mori, and the President of the Republic of Nauru, Mr. Marcus Stephen, will meet with Israeli leaders at the highest levels of government, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres (with a dinner hosted by President Peres in the delegation's honor), Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Liberman, and others.

In addition to discussing issues of global and strategic importance, each of the Pacific Island Ministers of Foreign Affairs are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding expanding agreements on a number of consular matters with Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

At the same time, these leaders will have the opportunity to enhance the ties between the nations on a host of issues, including healthcare, solar energy, water, clean technologies and other innovations of importance to the Pacific Island nations in which Israel is a world leader.

In addition to official meetings and briefings with high level decision-makers, the delegation will also tour Jerusalem, visit Yad Vashem, and meet with experts at Hadassah hospital to discuss initiatives in diabetes prevention and education. They will also visit the town of Sderot, tour Christian sites throughout the country, and meet directors of organizations promoting Arab-Jewish coexistence and youth leadership.

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