

Hello, Shalom!

I am Alex Soloviev, one of the organizers of this meeting. I am a professor of the Nova Southeastern University, leading the Physical Oceanography Lab at the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography.

We are delighted to have you here to participate in the Marine and Environmental Engineering Meeting. Thank you for coming!

Thank you to IOLR for hosting this event and to Professor Barak Herut, IOLR Director General and Professor Zvi-Ben Abraham, Founding Director of the Charney School of Oceanography University of Haifa. We are also expecting Ambassador Ayalon to join the meeting. He notified us yesterday that today he has a meeting in Jerusalem today the President of Israel and has asked to reschedule his talk to the second day. Danny Ayalon was the Israeli Ambassador to the United States from 2002 to 2006. He significantly contributed to the development of the US-Israel cooperation in the technological area including oceanography.

Nova Southeastern University is interested in the development of collaboration with Israeli research organizations. NSU is the rising star in the southeast United States. It has about 25 thousand students and 12 colleges. The College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography (Dean Prof. Richard Dodge) has recently received a Federal Grant, which has allowed us to build a \$50M state of the art facility (slide). One of the labs at this facility is the Physical Oceanography Lab.

The main topic of this meeting is Geoengineering. The goal of Geoengineering is to produce substantial societal benefits while minimizing adverse effects. The meeting topics include such societally important topics as Red Sea – Dead Sea water conveyance, artificial islands, mariculture management, coral reef engineering, creating resilient coastal communities, and topics as ambitious as the mitigation of climate extremes in the Levant by increasing winter rains and the mitigation of hurricane impacts in the US.

Enjoy the rest of this meeting! Prepare yourself to be challenged, excited, and inspired!

Before I handover to Barak Herut and Zvi-Ben Abraham, I would like to mention that today afternoon we will also have a reception – courtesy of Nova Southeastern University.

On Tuesday, we will have the final discussion about the development of collaborations in marine and environmental engineering involving the US and Israel scientists.