THE DIRECTOR
OF
THE JAMES A. BAKER III INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY
RICE UNIVERSITY
cordially invites you to
a lecture on

OSLO & AFTER:
A PARTICIPANT’S REPORT OF THE PEACE PROCESS

with

DR. YAIR HIRSCHFELD
ISAAC AND MILDRED BROCHSTEIN FELLOW IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE
AND SECURITY IN HONOR OF YITZHAK RABIN

Monday, October 17, 2005
6:00 PM

KELLY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FACILITY
Baker Hall
Rice University

R.S.V.P. by fax to (713) 348-5993 or by e-mail to bipprsvp@rice.edu
Yair Hirschfeld is the Director General of the Tel Aviv-based Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF). The ECF aims to develop a comprehensive strategy toward regional peacemaking and reconciliation by pursuing policy planning on issues of permanent status and by developing concepts, strategies, and implementation designs supporting Israeli-Arab (Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian) cooperation and coordination in political, economic, and social spheres.

In December 1992, Hirschfeld created the Oslo Channel and headed the Israeli team between December 1992 and May 1993. Having developed bridging concepts and obtained support from the Israeli government as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization, the unofficial track became official on May 20, 1993, when Hirschfeld joined the official Israeli negotiating team.

From 1994 to 1995, Hirschfeld was a member of the Israeli team that prepared the first Israeli-Palestinian blueprint for the Permanent Status Agreement, which has become known as the “Beilin-Abu Mazen Understanding.”

Hirschfeld has developed the concepts and practical structures for the Israeli-Palestinian civil society cooperation, and he founded people-to-people hubs in the fields of health, research, environment, and peace education.

Hirschfeld was a leading member of the Israeli team that prepared the detailed and agreed-upon concept regarding Israeli-Palestinian economic relations under a Permanent Status Agreement. The document was signed by the Israeli and Palestinian teams in November 1998, and its principles were accepted and supported by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In February 1999, Hirschfeld played a leading role in creating “Cooperation North”—a cross-border cooperation structure between the governor of Jenin in the Northern West Bank and the neighboring Israeli local councils of Beit Shean, Gilboa, and the city of Haifa. “Cooperation North” has become a model for Israeli and Palestinian good neighborly relations which, for the time being, continues to function (in limited fields) even under the present conditions of violence.

From 1999 to 2000, Hirschfeld was a leading member of a trilateral Israeli–Palestinian-Jordanian working group on security issues. The findings and the understandings of the group were accepted in the summer of 2000 by King Abdullah of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and supported by the Palestinian leadership.

Hirschfeld has been a leading member in Israeli-Palestinian working groups developing concepts on peaceful solutions to the Jerusalem and Refugees Issues. Heading the ECF, he is involved in crisis management and damage control activities, and he has become one of the leading international experts on track two diplomacy.

Hirschfeld and his team in ECF have, for the last two years, prepared the concept of Israeli Disengagement. Resulting from this the ECF has formed, together with the Baker Institute, an American-Israeli-Palestinian-Egyptian team, which has prepared a joint approach for a Roadmap Implementation Process.