



## THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, November 2020

### **Message from the President of the State of Israel to the friends and partners in the Federation of Indo-Israeli Chambers of Commerce**

It is a great honour to send you, friends from Israel, India, the United Arab Emirates and the Indian diaspora around the world, my personal greetings and best wishes for this important event: the launch of the International Federation of the Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce in Dubai. Creating and supporting business links between Israel, India and the Gulf states, and with the Indian diaspora across the region, indeed around the world, is an undertaking of great importance. Inshallah, b'ezrat Hashem, Bhagwan kare, you will succeed in it.

I was born in Jerusalem, a scion of an ancient family with roots in Jerusalem. My father and teacher, Professor Yosef Yoel Rivlin, was a scholar of Arabic language and culture and the translator of the Holy Koran into Hebrew. I remember my childhood home as a place where Jewish, Muslim and Christian scholars would meet. His bookshelves housed the key texts of Judaism and Islam, in Hebrew and in Arabic. My father was an admirer of the Semitic spirit and believed wholeheartedly in the promising future of the Middle East, based on partnership and the deep connection between the peoples of the region and their cultures.

This belief in shared existence is the legacy I received from my father, and this spirit and belief is what I see in the peace agreements, the Abraham Accords, reached between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain. I also see this spirit and belief in your work together to foster business links that are based on understanding and friendship among the peoples of the region.

Business is a great connector between peoples. I encourage you to dream big dreams that make the most of what each of us has to offer and making our world a better, safer place. I wish you all success for your discussions together, and that they form the basis of new friendships and partnerships across the region. I would like to extend an invitation to every one of you to come to Israel and Jerusalem to get to know us better, up close.

With greetings from Jerusalem,

  
Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin