

## **Professor Yaacov Katz - a remembrance and celebration of his work with IFIP TC3**

It was with true regret that IFIP TC3 members heard of the sad loss of a good friend and colleague, involved in the work of IFIP TC3 for so many years. Professor Yaacov Katz has left us with truly fond memories; his work is and will be cherished, and not forgotten.



Professor Yaacov Katz was known to us as a highly competent scientist, with a warm and welcoming personality; he was at the same time positive, intense and focused on matters and people around him. His psychological views and knowledge always brought extra perspectives to our discussions. He was known as a keen but critical researcher. Yaacov was initially involved in IFIP TC3 as a regular member of the former Working Group 3.5, focusing on primary education. With a background in psychology, his work explored important ways that students and teachers could positively gain from uses of digital technologies. In this work, he was recognised equally by IFIP TC3, by his University – Bar Ilan, and by his Ministry – the Ministry of Education in Israel. Indeed, Yaacov was an advisor to the Ministry and Government in Israel for many years.

Yaacov was involved in a wide range of ways in IFIP TC3. He was the local organiser and the chair of the International Programme Committee for the IFIP TC3 conference on *“Information Technology: Supporting Change through Teacher Education”* held in Kiryat Anavim, Israel in June 1996. In that conference, he ensured the professional and scientific focus, but, as well, maintained an exciting social and cultural atmosphere. Interesting discussions, exchange of experience and knowledge, and the attendance of colourful personalities all contributed to the recognised success of that conference, carefully planned and held in a selected venue that was so well furnished to effectively support all participants. The conference was rich in content, as were the organised visits in his country. All those who were privileged to attend hold good memories of the many places we were able to see. Our memories of those places and experiences were refreshed when, year after year, Yaacov never ceased to send his greetings to us for the Jewish New Year.

More recently, Yaacov did a great deal to support the IFIP TC3 journal, *“Education and Information Technologies”*, both as an Editorial Board Member and as a reviewer. He was always ready to help, and colleagues remember so well working with Yaacov, very much valuing his clear thinking and knowledge. In recent years, Yaacov was a regular and important contributor to the work of the IFIP TC3 Task Force on the Computer Science Curriculum. In this context, as on many other occasions, he contributed papers and presentations, either as a single author, or working collaboratively in conjunction with others.

Now that Yaacov has passed away, we will keep and cherish all the good memories he gave us and remember him as the warm and good person he was. We lose a good colleague and a good friend, and a person with strong humanistic values. When he attended conferences and meetings, he was often accompanied by his wife, so that they might enjoy some holiday time linked to the event. Our thoughts are now with his wife and family, to whom we extend our most sincere condolences.

May he rest in peace.

*Past and current members and officers of IFIP TC3*