16/3/17

Request to Participate in the Study Tour: Cross-Border Environmental Sustainability in the Middle East

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Liat Daudi. I am a Master’s student in the research track at The Porter School of Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University.

I am in the midst of conducting my M.A. thesis research, which examines the connection between ultra-Orthodox identity and environmental ways of thinking: “The link between Orthodox women’s identities and environmental attitudes.” My research is supervised by Prof. Rakefet Sela-Sheffy, head of the Unit of Culture Research in Tel Aviv University’s Faculty of the Arts, and Dr. Daniel Mishori, senior faculty member at The Porter School of Environmental Studies.

I’d like to participate in this fascinating tour for several reasons:

Firstly, as a resident of Israel and as an environmental and cultural researcher, I am consistently working to expand my horizons with regards to political-environmental subjects. Based on what I know of the tour’s content, as well as the experience of fellow students who participated in last year’s tour, I anticipate that the tour will offer a broad and meaningful perspective on the environmental, economic, and social aspects of the bio-geographical region in which we live.

Second, the research I am conducting examines the relationship between the Jewish ultra-Orthodox population and environmental issues in the urban space. Though my research is being conducted within Israel, it can be described as a study dealing with a “cross-sector environment.” Therefore, I believe it shares something in common with this extremely interesting tour.

Additionally, I am trained as a teacher of film and communications. I taught these subjects in a Jewish-Arab high school in Lod, a city with a heterogeneous population. My work in this unique school and the various challenges and struggles that I met there, serves as another, more personal reason to participate in this tour: An opportunity to improve the creation of trust-building partnerships in this region, considered to be a conflict-region – the Middle East.

Participation in this tour would provide an exceptional opportunity for academic partnerships with Columbia University students, and fascinating meetings with communities, organizations, and government representatives. To me, the tour seems very exciting.

I would very much like to participate in the tour.

Sincerely,

Liat Daudi