



הארגון העולמי של בתי הכנסת  
והקהילות האורתודוקסיות  
World Organization of Orthodox  
Synagogues and Communities



איחוד בתי הכנסת בישראל  
Union of Synagogues in

# השונ"ת בתקשורת הדיגיטלית יום עיון מרכזי

בס"ד, August 2009, Menachem Av 5769



Prof. Shlomo Zalman  
Havlin



Dr. Ron Waks



Mr. Kobi Hacker



Mr. Yossi Miller

Dear Friends, *shalom uv'racha!*

According to the lecturers and participants in the conference on the subject: *Responsa in Digital Communications*, that was held on Tuesday, 7 Menachem Av 5769 (July 28, 2009), it is clear that we are already in the midst of a global revolution regarding the methods and means whereby Jewish values can be made available to hundreds of thousands of Jews throughout the world – by computerized data bases and internet websites; at the same time, the availability of rabbis and other halachic authorities by means of digital and cellular communications enables tens of thousands – especially youth – to make use of *responsa* in questions of *halacha*, as well as social and community problems, to an unprecedented degree.

The respected rabbis who word the replies to the queries they receive noted during the conference the astounding progress both in the number of questioners and in the quality of the questions they pose. In addition, those who expressed reservations at this phenomenon of digital *responsa* referred only to the short replies expressed as "Yes" or "No".

The experts in internet communications who took part in the day-long study session spoke of the control over the content and pictures of internet sites. They added that they expected that in the foreseeable future there would be new visual technological developments regarding *responsa* as well.

We express our gratitude to the 17 outstanding lecturers, that include rabbis and halachic authorities who reply to questions posed in Israel and abroad and to the experts in digital communications who took part in the conference (their pictures appear on this page).



Eliezer Sheffer

Those interested in further information should write to us at: [unisyn@actcom.net.il](mailto:unisyn@actcom.net.il) and also read the information appearing in *Makor Rishon – HaTzofe* newspaper (28-29.7.09), and in the internet site of *Arutz 7* (29.7.09).

Sincerely,

Eliezer Sheffer  
Chairman



Yitzhak Dahan-  
Iyun chairman



Israeli Minister Rabbi  
Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz



Rabbi Dr. Ratzon Arous



Rabbi Yitzchak Yosef



Rabbi Yosef Carmel



Rabbi Yehuda Yesharim



Rabbi Avraham  
Wasserman



Rabbi Yosef  
Elnekavae



Rabbi David Lau



Rabbi Shmuel  
Shapira



Rabbi Yuval  
Sherlo



Rabbi Yisrael  
Rosen



Rabbi Shlomo  
Aviner