

Jerusalem Day, 2016

### **Jerusalem Mayor's Compliments on the Publication of the 2016 Statistical Yearbook**

On behalf of the Jerusalem Municipality, I congratulate the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies on the publication of the 30<sup>th</sup> Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook. Over the past three decades, the Yearbook published by the JIIS has provided a wealth of eye-opening figures that have assumed a principal role in shaping Jerusalem Municipality's plans for developing the City.

Lately, Jerusalem has been experiencing a surge in growth, with the Municipality's many investments in culture and tourism, education and community, business development and advanced industries, all beginning to bear fruit. The encouraging results are clearly appreciated in the figures collected in the 2016 Yearbook.

For the first time, an Arabic edition of the 2016 Yearbook will be offered. This encouraging precedent interconnects with the Municipality's efforts to scale down inequality in Jerusalem through massive, unprecedented investments in the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem.

Development of East Jerusalem is an integral, but only partial component in the Municipality's broader development plans for Jerusalem. One notable development, also described in the Yearbook, points to a **dramatic increase** in construction and housing development in Jerusalem – new construction for residential housing of over 644 thousand square meters began in 2014 – the highest figure in the past thirty years! The Municipality has also been working relentlessly to position Jerusalem as **Israel's leading tourist destination**: Jerusalem's hotels registered 3 million overnight stays in 2014 – more than any other place in Israel. Jerusalem's many visitors also ensured that Jerusalem's hotels produced the highest revenue in Israel.

This year was also the first time Jerusalem's **educational system** earned the Municipality Education Award from Israel's Ministry of Education. Our educational system continues to be the largest and most elaborate in the country, serving over 274 thousand students, who represent the fullest spectrum of Jerusalem's unique, cultural mosaic.

In the coming years, we will continue to direct Jerusalem on a path toward continued growth and success, which should become evident in future Yearbooks.

I would like to express gratitude to all of those who participated in the production of the 2016 Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook, and to thank them for their proficient, expert and comprehensive research.

Together we will continue to build up Jerusalem!

Happy Jerusalem Day,



Nir Barkat

Mayor of Jerusalem