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Jerusalem Institute Announces Major Gift by Blum Family Foundation To Expand Milken Innovation Center Programs



Clare Akamanzi, CEO, Rwanda Development Board and Head of President's Office of Strategy and Policy discusses with Richard C. Blum, Chairman, Blum Capital, building innovation teams between Israel and Africa at recent Milken Institute Global Conference.

JERUSALEM – The Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research announced today it has received a major gift from the Blum Family Foundation to expand programs in training and research at the Institute's Milken Innovation Center with the goal to assist countries in Africa, Asia and Latin American grow their economies through sustainable development.

The Blum Family Foundation pledged support over the next five years for the Milken Center to establish teams between Israel and developing countries to leverage Israel's world-class expertise in overcoming challenges in food, water, energy, environment and global health.

The [Jerusalem Institute](http://www.jerusalem-institute.org) also announced it will be the home of a new Blum Center for Developing Economies, the first outside California. The Blum Center in Jerusalem will support

existing Milken Center programs in Israel, as well as enable the Milken Center to include graduate students from developing countries for the first time and accelerate research and development in high-impact technology transfer.

"We know that living conditions for people improve more rapidly when professionals have the right tools and can apply best practices in sustainable development, including new financing methods and technologies," said Richard C. Blum, founder of the Blum Family Foundation and

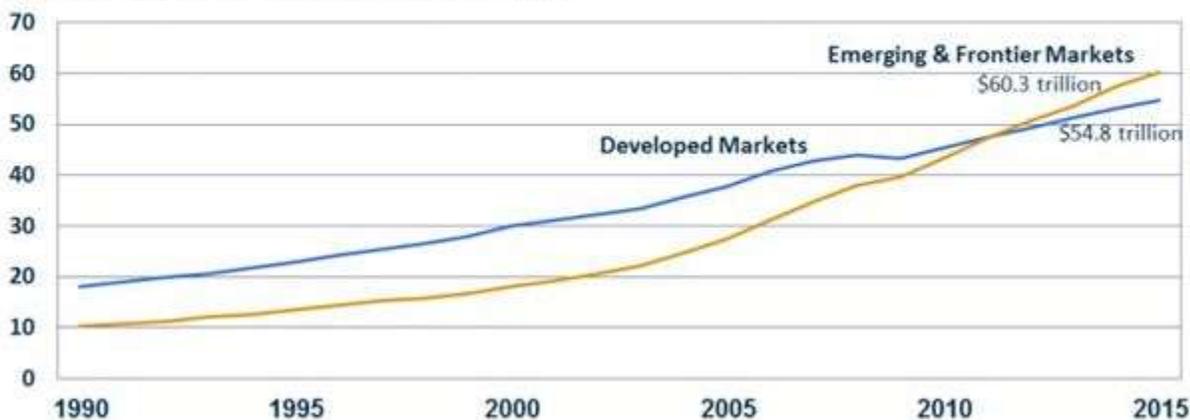


chairman of Blum Capital Partners L.P., a private-equity firm based in San Francisco, Calif. “We’re delighted to support the outstanding people and programs of the Milken Innovation Center.”

Prof. Glenn Yago, senior director of the [Milken Innovation Center](#), said, “We fully expect the new Blum Center at the Jerusalem Institute to become a launch pad, helping developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America accelerate sustainable economic growth that reduces global inequality and poverty.”

Global Growth Now Driven By Developing Economies

GNI (purchasing power parity international \$, trillions)



Source: World Bank, Gross National Income (GNI) Series, 2016

The [Milken Innovation Center advised](#) Israel and the State of California in 2014 when the respective [governments agreed](#) to share ideas and expertise in water technology as well as energy, biomedical, agritech, and green building technologies.

Israel grew its economy to developed, from developing, status in recent decades in part by utilizing private investment and public-private partnerships to identify, implement, finance and better manage new technologies and processes for basic services. California officials have embraced similar policies to reduce future water shortages.

“This generous gift will enable us to continue our work in Israel and reach out to developing markets,” Yago continued, by mobilizing faculty and students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and applied research and training resources at the Jerusalem Institute.

Richard Blum is a renowned investor and philanthropist. He has applied his core concepts in building successful companies to fighting poverty and advancing global development through myriad humanitarian, higher education and public policy projects. Among these is the Blum Center for Developing Economies at the University of California.



He is a member and former chair of the University of California Board of Regents, and founded and chairs the American Himalayan Foundation, a humanitarian group that has worked in Nepal and throughout the Himalaya for 36 years, improving education and health, preserving Tibetan culture and preventing girl trafficking. He is co-founder of the annual Brookings Blum Roundtable on Global Poverty, and author, with Thomas C. Hayes, of *[An Accident of Geography: Compassion, Innovation, and the Fight Against Poverty](#)* (Greenleaf Book Group Press, 2016).

The original [Blum Center for Developing Economies](#) was created in 2006 at the University of California, Berkeley as a multi-disciplinary center for studies on global poverty and income

inequality. Each of the University of California's ten campuses now has a Blum Center. Programs across the federation reflect local challenges in poverty and income inequality. The University of California is the world's largest system of public higher education, with 250,000 students.

The Milken Innovation Center at the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research is funded in part by donations from the [Milken Institute](#) and other major U.S. and Israeli foundations. The Jerusalem Institute was founded by the late Mayor of the Jerusalem Municipality, Teddy Kollek, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Foundation as a center for applied research in 1978.



Jerusalem Institute's location of Blum Center for Developing Economies.



Global Fellows working on water, solar mini-grids, climate smart agriculture, and assistive technologies projects in Israel.

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