ITALIAN AMBASSADOR Gianluigi Benedetti visited Bar-Ilan University last week and was briefed by its president, Prof. Arie Zaban, on its plans for the next decade, particularly with respect to the establishment of multidisciplinary centers designed to impact upon our everyday lives. Zaban noted the strong potential for expanding cooperation with Italian institutions of higher education.

Having learned earlier in the week that Bar-Ilan physicist Prof. Shlomo Havlin will receive the 2018 Israel Prize in Physics, Benedetti asked to personally congratulate him. In May 2017 Benedetti’s predecessor, Francesco Maria Talo, awarded one of his country’s highest civilian honors, the Order of the Star of Italy, to Havlin.

Accompanying Benedetti on his visit were embassy officials, including Scientific Attaché Prof. Stefano Boccaletti, a senior researcher at the CNR Institute for Complex Systems in Italy and an honorary professor of physics at Bar-Ilan. Boccaletti, who has served in Israel for the past decade, will soon return to Italy.