On Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan 5781, World Mizrachi held its Global Summit, which takes place every five years – an opportunity to reflect on the previous few years and to prepare for the future.

It featured a presentation on Mizrachi’s programs by Rabbi Doron Perez and reports from Mizrachi branches from around the world, as well as contributions from Chief Rabbi David Lau, Minister for Diaspora Affairs Omer Yankelevitch, Rabbi Yosef Zvi Rimon and Sivan Rahav Meir.

One of the main focuses of the Summit was the vital work of World Mizrachi’s new Yeshivot and Seminaries Department:

World Mizrachi now serves as a representative body to Masa, on behalf of the 65 Masa-accredited Torah schools. Within a short time, World Mizrachi elicited tremendous results both as a lobby group of the yeshivot and seminaries to Masa, as well as functioning as a more effective way for Masa to interact with the many schools.

As a lobby group, World Mizrachi managed to ensure the replacement of significant money of intended Masa budget cuts, which would have adversely affected the Masa subsidy grant to our schools. In the process, World Mizrachi secured $1,500,000 in matching funds for students, enabling hundreds of students in need of financial support to participate in their chosen programs. World Mizrachi now needed to assist the yeshivot and seminaries in raising the matching funds, and much more.

World Mizrachi then launched its Emergency Campaign for Yeshivot and Seminaries on behalf of over 50 Torah institutions operating gap year programs in Israel, which raised collectively $5 million for these institutions. This ensured funding not only to unlock the matching funding for Masa scholarships but to also assist yeshivot and seminaries themselves at this challenging Covid-19 time so that no deserving student be denied the amazing Gap Year in Israel.

Following the campaign, World Mizrachi launched a new department to continually serve and support yeshivot and seminaries in Israel, which cater to overseas students. World Mizrachi intends to continue this annual campaign and is fully committed to strengthening Torah learning in Israel and the immersive Gap Year experience, which is critical to the Mizrachi mission: nurturing a future generation of Jewish leaders and influencing the destiny of global Jewry.
Rabbi Ari Rockoff joins RZA-Mizrachi

During the Summit, RZA–Mizrachi announced the appointment of Rabbi Ari Rockoff as the new Executive Vice-President.

Rabbi Rockoff is one of the country’s most dynamic Jewish communal leaders and is recognized throughout the community for his work with many of the largest national Jewish institutions.

Rabbi Rockoff has over 20 years of experience in senior leadership positions across the Jewish community. Prior to joining the RZA–Mizrachi, he served as the founding director of leadership development and strategic partnerships at the Orthodox Union. He also spent more than a decade at Yeshiva University, where he was on the founding team of the Center for the Jewish Future.

Rabbi Rockoff is a graduate of Yeshiva University’s Sy Syms School of Business and received his rabbinical ordination from RIETS, a master’s degree in education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, and an MBA from Baruch’s Zicklin School for Business, where his studies focused on organizational behavior.

Rabbi Rockoff resides in West Hempstead with his wife, Deborah, and their five children.

This is truly a time of great opportunity for RZA-Mizrachi.

Co-Presidents, Dr. Ernest Agatstein, Rabbi Leonard Matanky, and Martin Oliner, and Chairman of the Board, Seymour Shapiro, join us in wishing Rabbi Rockoff hatzlacha in his new position as we look forward to him joining RZA–Mizrachi and taking it forward to new heights.