

Conference focuses on cybersecurity



Inon Elroy, Israel's economic minister to North America, presents during CyberMiami at Miami-Dade College. Courtesy (xxxx / Courtesy)



By **Sergio Carmona**

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Conference featured cybersecurity experts

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The Idea Center at **Miami Dade College** recently collaborated with Tel Aviv University to host CyberMiami, a one-day technology conference that featured cybersecurity experts from business, education and intelligence fields.

This conference, which took place at MDC's Wolfson Campus in Downtown Miami, connected the business ecosystem of the Latin American market with top entrepreneurs from the U.S. and Israel where, according to a press release, there are currently more than 400 cybersecurity companies in operation.

Both MDC and Tel Aviv University signed a knowledge sharing agreement in August 2015 that's intended to help enhance Miami's entrepreneurship ecosystem and link Israel's high-tech and start-up communities to resources and people in Miami.

Leandro Finol, executive director for MDC's Idea Center, said the CyberMiami conference was "another extraordinary collaboration between both schools."

Lior Haiat, the consul general of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico and one of the event's speakers, called it an "amazing" conference that is intended to create a working environment between Israeli and Miami companies.

"We're trying to create an economic bridge that will connect Israel to Miami and through Miami to Latin America as well," Haiat continued. "Israel is the leading state in cybersecurity in the world. It's almost like a miracle but in Israel miracles don't just happen. There are people behind them who work hard in order to make the miracle happen and in this case over the past 10 years Israel has invested a lot in cybersecurity technologies and infrastructure in order to get this result, which is the miracle that we're experiencing today."

Erez Hevroni, founder of CyberMiami, mentioned things the attendees can take away from the conference.

"They can learn about threats and vulnerabilities, they can learn about solutions such as cybersecurity, they can take advantage of doing business with Israeli cybersecurity companies and they can meet decision makers in the cybersecurity space and engage with the right people on doing business with Israeli cybersecurity."

Meital Stavinsky, a partner with the law firm Greenberg Traurig in Miami and a moderator for a panel during the conference, said in an interview: "I think there is huge potential for collaboration between the cybersecurity industry as a whole in Israel and Florida."

Inon Elroy, Israel's economic minister to North America who gave a presentation during the conference, said in an interview that when it comes to cybersecurity, people need to understand they are at risk.

"I think one of the representatives for one of the companies was very clear and sharp, mentioning that cybersecurity is the new frontier," Elroy continued. "10 years ago we were afraid that people would get into our houses and steal our TVs. That is still a problem, but you can maybe buy a new TV. Today we should be challenged by the fact that people can steal our identities, they can steal our savings and they could shut down our electricity, so imagine if you drive a car and there's no traffic light. There is a real threat."

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