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Research Scientist Joseph Hess Named Vice President of IALC

September 15, 2004 - Tucson, AZ - Orange County resident Joseph Hess, a retired research scientist, has been named Vice President of the International Arid Lands Consortium.

"Mr. Hess brings years of dedicated service to and interest in IALC activities. His vast national and international experience also helps to strengthen the IALC. He is a valuable asset to the organization," said Kenneth Foster, President of the IALC.

IALC member institutions include the University of Arizona, Desert Research Institute Nevada, Higher Council for Science & Technology Jordan, The University of Illinois, the Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Mr. Hess is the board member from Jewish National Fund. He was a senior manager who played a key role in the U.S. space program where he was responsible for space testing of evolving technology. Active in numerous American and international organizations, Mr. Hess is an associate fellow for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a member of the International Academy of Astronautics. Today, Mr. Hess is an international space technology consultant developing business opportunities for international companies. His experience includes working with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs, organizing workshops to assist developing nations in applying space technology to their needs. He has held numerous volunteer and leadership positions in the Jewish community, including his work with Jewish National Fund, where he currently serves as Vice President of Government Relations.

"This is a tremendous honor," said Mr. Hess. "The multilateral work of the IALC, especially in the funding of peer-reviewed research and demonstration projects is essential for arid and semi-arid climates, such as in the Middle East. In addition, the new projects the IALC has started in Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan under U.S. AID, expands our leadership role."

The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring the problems and solutions unique to arid and semiarid regions. The IALC promotes cooperative research and practical application of new knowledge to develop sustainable ecological practices. The member institutions share a mission to enable people of arid lands to improve the quality of life for future generations.