

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 7TH
SEDE BOQER SYMPOSIUM ON
SOLAR ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION**

18 - 20 MARCH 1996

E d i t o r

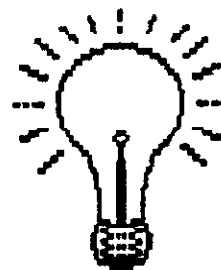
D. F A I M A N

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**The Center for Energy and Environmental Physics
The Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**

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**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
The Blaustein International Center for Desert Studies
The International Solar Energy Society (Israel Section)
The Israel Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
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INTRODUCTION

The 7th Sede Boqer Symposium on Solar Electricity Production, following the pattern of its predecessors, aimed, *inter alia*, to serve as a meeting ground for solar-thermal and photovoltaic specialists. However, this particular aim may become superfluous in the future since the technologies themselves appear to be bridging that gap. I refer, on the one hand, to the area of concentrator photovoltaics (see for example the contribution of Yehezkel et al) and, to the new field of thermophotovoltaics (see Emery's key-note lecture). Nevertheless, as witnessed by the papers reproduced in this volume, the research emphasis in Israel at the present time is clearly more in the direction of photovoltaics than solar thermal.

This year we enjoyed presentations from two world-renowned key-note speakers, Dr. Keith Barnham from Imperial College, London and Dr. Keith Emery from NREL, Colorado. As in previous years, the discussions following these stimulating talks were tape-recorded and edited transcripts are included in this volume. Our third invited key-note speaker, Professor Antonio Luque from Madrid, was prevented from arriving, at the last moment, by the jet-age equivalent of "highway robbery". Although Professor Luque kindly volunteered to send his written text for inclusion in the proceedings this offer was declined on the grounds that we prefer to have him deliver a presentation *in person* at the next Sede Boqer Symposium. To our great good fortune, however, Dr. Morton Prince was prepared to improvise a historical review of photovoltaics in order to fill the after-dinner void created by Professor Luque's absence. His review is included in these proceedings. Also included are two other presentations that were not given orally: one by Professor Isaac Balberg (who was prevented by sickness from attending the symposium) and the other by Dr. Raphael Ofek (whose modesty, as session chairman, did not enable him also to lecture).

Finally it is, once again, my pleasant duty to acknowledge the sponsors of this year's symposium. They were: The Blaustein International Center for Desert Studies; The Israel Section of the International Solar Energy Society; The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and Ormat Industries Ltd. I would also like to acknowledge the staff of the Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Center (David Berman, Yaffa Brand, Nitza Chaikin Danny Chorna, Rachel Gur, Mark Sharf and Genia Sonkin) for their many personal touches which contributed to the comfort of our guests and to the smooth running of the symposium. Michael Zoglauer took the photographs which appear on pp 12 and 50.

David Faiman
Sede Boqer, July 1996.

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