

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH  
SEDE BOQER SYMPOSIUM ON  
SOLAR ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

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Editor

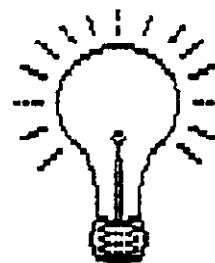
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## INTRODUCTION

The 8th Sede Boqer Symposium on Solar Electricity Production got off to an unusual start. Instead of the traditional review of current government policy on energy and the position of solar therein, Dr. Avraham Arbib, head of R&D at the Ministry of National Infrastructures led a lively debate on the kind of things that are impeding progress in the use of solar energy and the manner in which the world of academia might play a more active role in the formulation of policy. The present proceedings reprint Dr. Arbib's slides and provide a transcription of the discussion.

This year we were privileged to hear three key-note presentations. Professor Antonio Luque, from Madrid, finally managed to make it to Sede Boqer (after having been forced to turn back while on his way to the 7th Symposium!) and rewarded us with a fascinating review of concentrator photovoltaics. A major part of his message was that concentrator cells can be manufactured using techniques similar to those employed for non-concentrator cells and, as such, they need not be divorced from the niche markets that are helping to bring down the costs associated with conventional photovoltaic cells.

Dr. Thomas Mancini, from Albuquerque, reviewed dish-stirling technologies. A disturbing part of his message was that even though the technology has steadily improved during the past few years its economic viability is being eroded, paradoxically, by demonstration projects aimed at playing a supporting role!

The third key-note presentation was made by Professor Dan Zaslavsky, from Haifa. Dan described a remarkable method for generating large quantities of electric power, together with various side benefits, by using gigantic towers located in desert regions. As was the case in previous years, the lively discussions generated by these key-note talks were taped and are transcribed in these proceedings.

Lastly, it is my pleasant duty to acknowledge the sponsors of this year's symposium. They were: The Blaustein International Center for Desert Studies, The Israel Power Systems Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, The Israel Section of the International Solar Energy Society, the Israel Ministry of National Infrastructures, Ormat Industries Ltd. and Solel Solar Systems Ltd. On behalf of all the participants I would also like to thank the staff of the Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Center (David Berman, Dov Bukovza, Shlomo Caballo, Shoshana Dann, Nitsa Haikin, Lev Lozinsky), Ofra Faiman, Lilian Naaman and John Krivine for their many personal touches which contributed to the comfort of our guests and the smooth running of the symposium.

David Faiman  
Sede Boqer, May 1998.

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