



BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY A WORLD-LEADER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY
Israeli Minister Cites Solar Power Generation as a Top-Priority

TORONTO, Ontario, March 20, 2008. - Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Israel's Minister of National Infrastructure represented Israel at the 2008 Washington International Renewable Energy Conference, where he highlighted his country's recent contributions to finding sustainable energy solutions. According to the website "Environmental Protection On-line"

(www.eponline.com) Minister Ben-Eliezer specifically cited Bar-Ilan University's Nanotechnology Institute as a world-leader in the field.

Professor Arie Zaban, head of the Nanotechnology Institute at BIU has invented an innovative photovoltaic cell that could dramatically reduce the cost of producing electricity from solar power. Professor Zaban says that cells, which are composed of metallic wires mounted on conductive glass, can form the basis of solar cells that produce electricity with the efficiency similar to that of conventional, silicon-based cells while being much cheaper to produce.

"Such an invention could revolutionize the way humanity operates," said Gab Weisfeld, President of the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University. "One can only imagine how society would be reorganized with the advent of cheaper, renewable energy widely available for all."

On January 21, 2008, the Israeli government became the first state in the world to announce its support for a plan to install the world's first electric car network in Israel by 2011. The plan outlines the widespread use of battery-powered cars and the infrastructure to refresh or replace them.

Consequently, Israel is increasing its domestic solar power operations. In February 2008, the Israeli government issued a tender for the construction of two solar-energy plants in the southern Negev desert. The two plants will supply 250 megawatts of renewable energy in the form of electricity, equivalent to three percent of Israel's electricity consumption by 2011-2012.

OrionSolar, a Jerusalem-based company that has entered into a partnership with BIU, is developing commercial applications for inexpensive, dye-based photovoltaic cells based on Zaban's work. Bar-Ilan University is the world's leading institute for higher learning, which provides an environment for academic excellence to Jews of every level of observance, as well as the community at large. The University's flagship program is nestled firmly within its new \$130 Million Nanotechnology Institute and it's now ranked number three in the world, and number one in Israel, for citations in advanced nano-materials research. The future of industry in Israel is based in high-technology and Bar-Ilan University is pioneering the way.

The Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University links the University to the Canadian public. CFBIU hosts a variety of lectures, sponsors seminars and conferences, and distributes educational material to promote BIU research and innovations. We support BIU in its great mission to enhance scientific knowledge and prepare the next generation of leadership.