

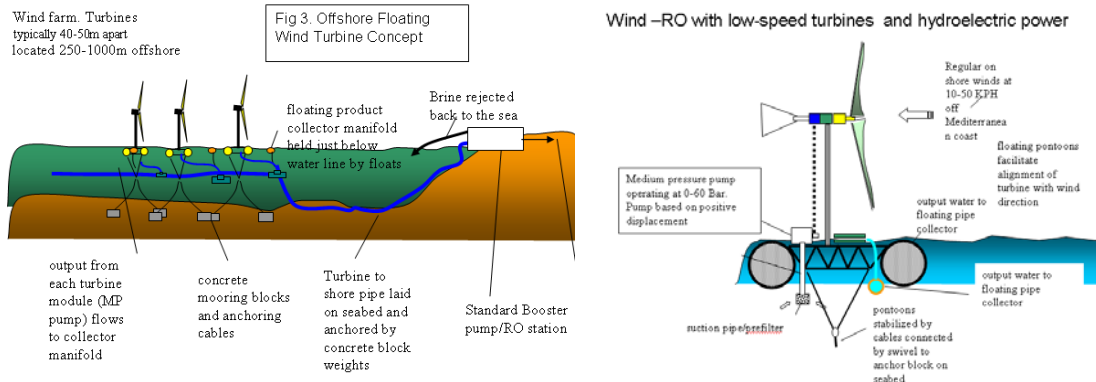
The 3rd Meeting of the "BGU Water Forum" of Researchers of Ben-Gurion University

December 23, 2007, at the Sede Boqer Campus

The 3rd "BGU Water Forum" meeting at the Sede Boqer Campus took place on Sunday, Dec 23, 2007, in the Seminar Room of the Zuckerman Institute for Water Research (ZIWR). The BGU Water Forum encompasses more than 40 scientists from departments at BGU that are not part of the ZIWR but are scientifically involved in water-related research projects.

The meeting was devoted to three topics: 1) the newly established graduate program in Hydrology and Water Engineering—an attempt to induce more BGU faculty to join the program; 2) promoting the international education program in **Water & the Environment**; and 3) collaboration with the Tamarix Venture Capital Fund for leveraging applied research in hydrology and water engineering.

- * **Prof. Asher Brenner**, Head of the Unit of Environmental Engineering, and **Prof. Eilon Adar**, ZIWR director gave a presentation on the common/mutual **M.Sc. Program in Hydrology and Engineering and Management of Water Resources**.
- * **Dr. Orit Ben-Zvi Assaraf**, Science Teaching Dept., presented a lecture on "Transfer of the Blue Planet Earth Systems Approach (BEPESA) for the Study of Water-Related Systems"—conclusions and future directions emerging from the ZIWR-UNESCO Blue Planet Seminar in Argentina.
- * **Dr. Jack Gilron**, Desalination and Water Treatment Dept., presented two applied research projects ready for pilot-stage Alfa model development:
 - (Project 1) Sensor-triggered flow reversal for high recovery RO from brackish and municipal wastewater resources
 - (Project 2) Wind-coupled RO using inexpensive float-mounted low-rpm turbines and load-smoothing technologies for hydraulic power generation under high wind conditions.



- * **Prof. Raz Jelinek**, Chemistry Dept., presented his novel findings of "Simple Color Assays for Detection of Bacteria in Water"—a basic process that can be used to detect hazardous pollutants in the water-supply system.
- * **Prof. Gidon Eshel**, Dept. of Solar Energy and Environmental Physics, gave a lecture on "An Alternative Conceptual Model of Middle Eastern Aridity and Its Possible Response to Global Warming"—the impact of regional climate changes on water-resource availability in the Middle East.
- * **Dr. Vered Yesodi**, Director of the National Center for Advanced Water Technologies, presented the current status of the Center, and elaborated on possible avenues for collaboration between academia and the water industries and on the concept of leveraging scientific innovations into products.
- * **Tamarix Ventures**, Venture Capital Fund investing in "clean-tech" technologies, presented the Water Forum faculty members with different possibilities for acquiring private financial resources to support research and development of water-related technologies.