

Prof. Arie Issar, Ben Gurion University, Israel

Recipient of the Ben Gurion Prize 2010

The Ben-Gurion Prize 2010-2011 was awarded to **Prof. (Emeritus) Arie S. Issar** of the Department of Environmental Hydrology and Microbiology in the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research of the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR). Prof. Issar is one of the world's leading researchers in the field of development of water resources in arid areas and was the founder of the Water Resources Center at Sede Boqer before it became the Zuckerberg Institute. The award ceremony took place on Monday November 22 in the presence of the President of the State of Israel **Shimon Peres**. IDF Chief of General Staff **Gabi Ashkenazi** lectured on "The IDF and Ben-Gurion - Then and Now".



Figure: From right to left: Yad Ben Gurion President and Former State President Itzhak Navon, present State President Shimon Peres, Margalit and Arie Issar

The citation describes Prof. Issar as: "..... an exemplary man, in the spirit of the vision of David Ben-Gurion. He is not only a world-renowned scientist in the field of water resource research and paleoclimate change, but is known also for his personal commitment to the development of the Negev by in settling in Sede Boqer, for researching the area and for his findings which enable the development of the Negev and the Arava, as well as dedicating his life to the security of the state and promoting Israel's name around the world."

This year members of the selection committee included Prof. **Uriel Reichel**, Major-General (res.) **Raphael Vardi** and Prof. **Dafna Schwartz**. The Ben-Gurion Prize is awarded each year by Yad David Ben-Gurion an association founded by David Ben-Gurion to advance the development of the Negev - to researchers, writers, intellectuals and distinguished figures who by their actions perpetuate David Ben-Gurion's vision.