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Forum focuses on Mideast's water problems

BEERSHEVA — American and Israeli hydrologists shared ideas on the increasing depletion of water resources at a recent symposium at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund, or BARD.

BGU President Dr. Avishay Braverman, an expert on the economic development of Third World countries, stressed the need for improved water-utilization technology and for cooperative regional solutions.

The symposium also heard from Professor Arie Issar, head of BGU's Water Resources Center, who helped discover vast aquifers of saline fossil water underneath the Sinai and the Negev in the 1960s. Issar called for the utilization of these aquifers for the benefit of the entire region.