

19 June 2002

English only

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**Eighth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Meetings and conferences: national names meetings,  
conferences and symposia**

**Toponymist honoured**

**Submitted by Israel\*\***

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\* E/CONF.94/1.

\*\* Prepared by Naftali Kadmon, Emeritus Professor of Cartography and Toponymy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Israel Prize, the highest distinction conferred by the State of Israel, is awarded annually to a person or a legal body of acclaimed national merit, in eight different classes of achievement. In 2002, the Israel Prize was awarded to Avraham Biran, Chairman of the Government Names Commission of Israel and Scientific Director of the Jerusalem Hebrew Union College. The coveted prize was conferred on the recipient for his lifelong work in archaeology, as well as for his leadership of the national body administering geographical names in Israel. Professor Biran has been Chairman of the Government Names Commission since its official inception in 1951 and still serves at the head of three subcommissions — on names of populated places, on historical names and on geographical names (i.e. the names of all natural and man-made features with the exception of populated places). Professor Biran was feted in a double event for receiving the Israel Prize and reaching his 92nd birthday.

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