

INTRODUCTION: OUR GREAT APPRECIATION TO ASSAF RAZIN FOR HIS CRUCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ISRAEL ECONOMIC REVIEW

The current issue of Israel Economic Review is the last one under the supervision of Assaf Razin as co-editor.

At the beginning of the 2000s, a crisis arose regarding “*The Economic Quarterly*” (*Rivon LeCalalah*): Am Oved withdrew from its role as the journal’s publishing house, and the Israel Economic Association was suddenly faced with the challenge of finding a new publishing partner. As visionary thinkers often do, Assaf Razin saw this crisis as an opportunity. He arranged a meeting with the Governor of the Bank of Israel at the time, the late David Klein, and proposed a cooperative initiative. The result was an agreement to launch a new journal that would publish, in English, selected articles originally submitted in Hebrew to both “*The Economic Quarterly*” and the “*Bank of Israel Review*” (*Seker Bank Israel*). This initiative served a dual purpose: to broaden the reach and citation potential of research focused on the Israeli economy, and to ensure continuity in the publication of high-quality economic research through a new collaborative framework.

Thus, in 2003, *The Israel Economic Review* was born. Since then, it has published numerous issues and received an impressive number of citations. This success did not come easily—it required dedication and hard work. Editors were tasked with recruiting expert referees, personally reviewing submissions, and, most importantly, developing clear editorial standards for publication. Here, Assaf Razin made his most significant mark. He instilled in the editorial team the principle that a paper should not be judged merely by its technical sophistication, but rather by its scientific merit, its contribution to understanding the Israeli economy, and its relevance to important public policy questions.

Those who have worked closely with Assaf learned the importance of strong, consistent principles and the courage to apply them without compromise in the pursuit of academic excellence.

Beyond his many professional achievements, Assaf Razin also distinguished himself through his character. He cared deeply about his fellow editorial board members, always emphasized the broader perspective beyond the economics profession, and consistently expressed concern for the future of Israeli society and the study of the Israeli economy.

We wish Assaf all the best in the next chapter of his life—a stage he describes as more contemplative, guided by hope for a better world.

Assaf, thank you for your outstanding contribution.

On behalf of the Editorial Board: Adi Brender and Michel Strawczynski