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Mustapha Besbes is Professor of Hydrogeology then professor emeritus in the Tunis National Engineering School from 1979 to 2015, Director of the school from 1989 to 1995, Research Engineer at the Paris School of Mines from 1972 to 1979, hydro geologist in charge of Central Tunisia, Office of Hydraulic Resources, Ministry of Agriculture of Tunisia, from 1964 to 1971.

M. Besbes received his bachelor's and master's degrees, in Geology and Geophysics, his PhD in Hydrology (1967) and his Doctorat es sciences (1978) from the University Pierre & Marie Curie in Paris. His research topics focuses on groundwater, water management and policies, modelling, water resources in arid regions. He especially developed an original model to study aquifer recharge by floods in ephemeral streams, and his team was able to establish the current recharge of Saharan aquifers whereas they often were assumed to only contain fossil water. He also coordinated works on modelling the NWSAS (the North Western Sahara Aquifer System, covering over one million square kilometres) in order to design an optimal exploitation scheme by Algeria, Tunisia and Libya). During the last fifteen years, he developed new concepts and applications on managing green and virtual water, with an emphasis on water resources globalization, and original findings on the case of Tunisia.

M. Besbes was elected as foreign member of the French Academy of sciences, in 2009, and corresponding member of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts Beit AlHikma in 2013. He has published three books and nearly one hundred articles in the field of hydrogeology and water management and protection.

He is member or head of numerous scientific commissions and working groups : President of the Committee for exact and natural sciences of the National Commission of the UNESCO (1989-1993); National commission for Atomic Energy (1991-1996); National committee for scientific research (1994); National committee for higher education assessment (1996-2001); Vice-president of the National Committee of the International Hydrologic Program (1984-1990) ; Member of National boards for higher education In Geological sciences, Hydraulic engineering, Civil engineering, Industrial engineering, Agronomic sciences; President of the International Association of Engineering schools and Technicians formations (1992-1996) ; Member of National committee of scientific Research assessment (1998-2002); Board of Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies; Member of the National Council for Research & Technology (2006 to now). He is Co-Founder of the Water Resources journal of Tunisia (1971) ; Member of the editorial board of Hydrogéologie journal, France

(1987-2002); Member of the scientific committee of the Journal des Sciences de l'Eau, Canada (1989-1993); Chairman of the Annales Maghrebines de l'Ingénieur (1990-1995); Reviewer for many scientific journals in the hydrological sciences and water management fields ; Associate editor of the Hydrological Sciences Journal.

### **Books :**

Besbes.M., ed. (2015)- *La mesure des risques hydrologiques ; Avancées & applications scientifiques dans le secteur de l'eau* (Hydrological risks assessments ; Scientific Advances & Applications in the water sector.) ; The Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts Editions ; Carthage, 2015.

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