

Short biography of Dr. János Fehér

Hon. University Professor Dr. János FEHÉR has more than four decades of experience in water resources management, with special focus on river basin management, including drought issues. He has a civil engineering MSc degree from the University of Technology of Budapest, Hungary. He received his PhD degree from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and Environmental Management of the University of Debrecen, Hungary on agricultural related water management. He has an Honorary University Professor status at this Faculty.

After graduation he worked for VITUKI Water Management Research Institute in two periods from 1976 till 1996 and later from 2008 till 2012, while from August 1996 till May 2008 he was the Chairman and General Director of a Hungarian-United Kingdom joint venture research and consultancy company called VITUKI CONSULT Ltd.

During his professional career he was visiting scientist in the USA (from October 1988 till March 1991) working for the US Salinity Laboratory, Riverside, California and later in Austria (in 1994 and in 1995) at the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA). He lectured on water resources management and integrated river basin management at the Budapest Corvinus University, and Debrecen University, while in 2012-2013 he was Visiting Professor at the Szent István University, Gödöllő, Hungary.

He has experience in European environmental policy being involved in several European projects for the EU Commission on support to (i) implementation of the Water Framework Directive; (ii) assessment of Member States' River Basin Management Plans; (iii) in-depth assessment of drought management plans as well as (iv) assessment of European surface and groundwater resources for the European Environmental Agency. He acted as adviser for the Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water on transboundary integrated river basin management. He was the Hungarian National Team Leader in European Environmental Agency's European Topic Centre on Water project for two periods (1997-2006 and 2011-2013). Between 2008-2011 he was the National Expert in charge of preparing the coordinated river basin management plan for the Hungarian part of the Tisza River Basin, which was part of the ICPDR coordinated integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan. From January 2017 till June 2019 in the EU Danube Transnational programme co-financed JOINTISZA project he was responsible for the synthesis of the 2nd Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan, which focused on identification of integrated measures applicable for both WFD, FD and climate change induced draught issues. Through his private SME, he is partner in the EU Horizon 2020 sponsored four year-long (2021-25) GoNEXUS project dealing with developing innovative tools and solutions for governing the water-energy-food-ecosystems NEXUS under climate change and responsible for coordinating the basin level, sub-basin level and local level stakeholder dialogues on climate impacts in the Danube River Basin.

He is/was member of national and international organisations, such as (i) Hungarian Hydrological Society since 1976; where he was elected Member of the Presidential Council of the Society (2015-2023); (ii) member of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) between 1989 and 1997; (iii) member of the International Water Association (IWA) (1994-2017), where he was Vice-Chair between 2002-2008; the Secretary (2008-2011) and from 2011 till 2014 the Chair of the Watershed & River Basin Management Specialist Group of IWA; (iv) Council Member, Global Water Partnership Central & Eastern Europe Region (2005-2012); Head of *Danube Strategy Task Force* of Global Water Partnership Central & Eastern Europe Region (2011- 2019).

Dr. Fehér was the chief-editor of the Hungarian Journal of Hydrology (2016-2021). He acted as reviewer for scientific journals (Water Science & Technology, Water Science & Technology: Water Supply, Water Practice & Technology, Journal of Water and Climate Change as well as Journal of Water and Land Development) and IWA World Water Congresses and Specialized Conferences during the last 20 years.