

Tribute to Gunnar Jacks (*April 13, 1937 †September 18, 2019)

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Dr. Gunnar Jacks accomplished his basic education with a M.Sc. in mining engineering from KTH Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm in 1963. During the period 1965–1967 he was engaged in humanitarian work in Turkey and then returned to KTH Royal Institute of Technology where in 1973 he defended his PhD thesis entitled *Chemistry of Groundwater in Hard Rocks*. During the period 1976–1978 he worked for Central Ground Water Board of India on a full-time basis stationed in Coimbatore, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, India. He became an Associate Professor at KTH in 1978 but continued his affiliation with the Central Groundwater Board until 1984. In 1986, he was appointed as a full Professor of Groundwater Chemistry at the Department of Land and Water Resources at KTH Royal Institute

of Technology. In 1994, he was appointed there to head the Groundwater Chemistry Division within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Soon after his retirement, Gunnar Jacks continued his academic involvement as professor emeritus of groundwater chemistry at KTH's Department of Sustainable Development, Environmental Science and Engineering. He had strong ties with the Åbo Akademi University, Finland since 1996, where in 2002–2006 he was appointed as a guest professor at the Institute of Geology and Mineralogy. Through his versatile knowledge he contributed there to the research and education within environmental geology and chemistry. While groundwater chemistry had been his principal field of expertise, he worked on a number of other contemporary environmental challenges in fields such as, acidification of soil and water; environmental effects of mining, geogenic contaminants in groundwater such as fluoride and arsenic, groundwater recharge in semi-arid areas and also on agricultural ecosystems such as arsenic in rice, and zinc deficiencies in soils, crops and human food intake. Throughout his career he published more than 300 scientific papers, peer-reviewed conferences papers and book chapters.

Based on his deep knowledge and understanding in the fields of hydrogeology, soil sciences and global water supply and his experience in a several water supply projects in developing countries, he had been unanimously elected as the President of the International Society of Ground water for Sustainable Development in 2006. In 2016, an honorary doctorate degree was conferred on Gunnar Jacks by the Åbo Akademi University, Finland in recognition of his outstanding contributions to research and education. He is survived by his wife Birgitta Jacks, who has been a pharmacist and nutritionist, and two sons Andreas and Johannes Jacks, who are both medical doctors by profession. Gunnar Jacks will always be remembered by the global hydrogeological community for his simplicity, humble personality and his extreme passion for and devotion to working for the population from developing nations across the world.

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