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2015 report

As vice president in the MENA region my activities during 2015 were quite limited for two reasons (i) the IAH2014 Congress held in Marrakech was quite stressful and the follow up of it was rather difficult, and (ii) the political situation in the MENA Region pushed scientific concerns to a low priority within the scientific communities.

Following is a summary report of my activities:

- 1- Following up with the IAH 2014 organizing committee (which, unfortunately, did not meet at all during 2015. I have no power on that) to get some few things done. Especially for returning to the IAH 15, 000 Euros loan. This was done. Other than that, no significant valuing of the scientific content of the congress was done by the committee.
- 2- Following up with groups of hydrogeologists in Algeria and Tunisia for the creation of national chapters in those countries. Progress has been made; especially for the Tunisian Chapter with Professor Faten Jaraya Horriche who has been quite active in this perspective. Presently, Prof. Horriche is trying to convince a local water resources Tunisian association "Association Eau et Development" to become the IAH Chapter. For Algeria, the dynamic started in 2014 with Professor Larbi Jabri has slowed down due to legal difficulties in this country (creating an association is quite difficult). But, it seems like the most difficult problem is the fund transfer limitations in these countries.
- 3- For the other countries in the MENA region, the political situation is, presently, not in favour of creating professional associations. However, there are scientists (hydrogeologists) who are working; and we have to think of some kinds of action to support them. May be a cooperation IAH/ESCWA could something to consider.
- 4- Interview for the US magazine SUNDESERT on the situation of water resources on Morocco and in the MENA region
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwxJAc7cCOE>)