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Janos J. Bogardi graduated in Civil Engineering with special emphasis on water resources and agricultural water resources development at the Technical University of Budapest, Hungary. After obtaining a post-graduate Diploma on Hydrology from the University of Padua, Italy, he earned his PhD in Civil Engineering at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany. He was honoured to receive the title of 'Doctor Honoris Causa' from the Agricultural University of Warsaw, Poland, and the Technical University of Budapest. After his activities, as Assistant Professor at the Institute for Water Resources Management of the Technical University of Budapest, his professional activities took him as scientific staff to the Federal Institute for Hydraulic Engineering in Karlsruhe, and the University of Karlsruhe, respectively. He alternated these posts with expert assignments for German consulting engineers in Darmstadt and Essen. In the following three years, he was then seconded by the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) to the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand. Subsequently he became professor for Hydraulics and General Hydrology at the Agricultural University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, for almost eight years.

Janos Bogardi's trajectory at the United Nations started at the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France, as Senior Programme Specialist and then Chief of the Section on Sustainable Water Resources and Management. In 2003, he was appointed Director of the United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn. In 2007, he was assigned Vice-Rector a. i. of United Nations University in Europe. He has authored, co-authored, and edited more than 170 publications including books, journal papers, research reports, lecture notes, as well as numerous articles for the media.