



## Suzanne Lacasse

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Dr. Lacasse was born in the small mining town of Noranda in northern Québec, Canada. She completed first her Bachelor of Arts, and in 1971, her studies in Civil Engineering at Ecole Polytechnique of Montréal. Graduate studies followed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA and Ecole Polytechnique. She obtained her Ph.D. in 1976. She was Lecturer at Ecole Polytechnique (1973-1975), and on the faculty of the Civil Engineering De-partment at MIT (1975-1983), where she also was Head of the Geotechnical Laboratory. Dr. Lacasse went to the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) as a post-doctoral fellow in 1978. She became permanent employee in late 1980, and worked on research and consulting assignments. Both in Norway and abroad. She became NGI's Managing Director in 1991, a position she held until December 2011. Since 2012, she acts as Technical Director at NGI. She served as President of the Canadian Geotechnical Society in 2003-2004.

During the early part of her professional career, Dr. Lacasse concentrated her work in the field of geotechnical laboratory techniques, soil behaviour studies and in-situ investigation methods. She published several often referred to articles and reports within these fields. Sub-sequently, she worked in the area of foundation engineering and design, both for structures on land and offshore, projects involving slope stability evaluation and improvement, and development of calculation procedures. In her work, Dr. Lacasse concentrated on combining mathematical and numerical analyses with practical geotechnical engineering design considerations. She was a key member of the NGI-team developing practical design analysis procedures for offshore platforms subjected to storm loading. The procedures are today widely recognised and accepted. In recent years, she developed and applied probabilistic analysis to assist in the foundation design and decision process and is well known for her contributions on hazard and risk assessment and risk management. As Managing Director of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, she maintained a keen interest for the technical aspects of NGI's work, and conducted research and consulting work. During her career she has given keynote lectures in over 30 countries.

Dr. Lacasse received many awards, including doctorates *Honoris Causa* from the University of Dundee (Scotland) and the Norwegian University of Trondheim, the Robert Legget Award of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, the K.Y. Lo Medal of the Engineering Institute of Canada for excellence in engineering, and the Effective Teaching Award in Civil Engineering at MIT. She is member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineers, the Canadian Academy of Engineers, the French Academy of Sciences - Section Technologies, the Norwegian Academy of Engineering and Sciences, the Norwegian Engineering Academy, the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, and the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Technology. Dr. Lacasse is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada, a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and an honorary member of the Norwegian Geotechnical Society. She gave in 2001 the 37<sup>th</sup> Terzaghi Lecture at the American Society of Civil Engineers, and will be giving the Terzaghi Oration in Paris in September 2013..