

## **DR. SUZANNE LACASSE - BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Lacasse was born in the mining town of Noranda in northern Québec, Canada. She completed her Bachelor of Arts at University of Ottawa and Civil Engineering degree 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 at MIT (1975-1982). She was also Head of the Geotechnical Laboratory at MIT (1975-1980).



Dr. Lacasse became a permanent employee of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) in 1980. She combined her position at NGI with visiting professorship at MIT for 5 years. She held a number of research and consulting assignments abroad and has delivered invited lectures in over 20 countries. She became Managing Director of NGI in 1991. She holds a number of positions on the Board of private companies and research organisations in Norway and abroad.

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. Subsequently, 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 have become widely recognised and accepted. Since 1985, she developed and applied probabilistic and reliability analyses to assist in the foundation design and decision process and is well known for these contributions. She has carried out hazard and risk analyses for many of the geo-engineering structures, including dams and offshore structures. While Managing Director of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, she is still active on research and consulting projects.

Dr. Lacasse received many awards, including a doctorate Honoris Causa from the Norwegian University of Trondheim and the University of Dundee in Scotland, the K.Y. Lo Medal of the Engineering Institute of Canada for excellence in engineering, the 125-Year "Personalités"-Award of the Ecole Polytechnique of Montréal 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 Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences, the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and the Royal Norwegian Society of Science and Letters. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Engineering Institute of Canada, the American Society of Civil Engineers and a Knight of the First Class in the Order of the Falcon of Iceland. She gave the 37<sup>th</sup> Terzaghi Lecture in 2001. She served as President of the Canadian Geotechnical Society in 2003 and 2004.