

LUIS ESTEVA



LE Bio Sketch - 080424

Born in Mexico City in 1935. Degrees of Civil Engineer (1958) and Doctor in Engineering (1968), both from the National University of Mexico, and Master of Science in Civil Engineering (1959), from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Since 1996, he is Professor Emeritus (Distinguished Professor) at the Institute of Engineering, National University of Mexico, where he has been active in research since 1959. From 1970 to 1977 he was Associate Director of the Institute, and he acted as the Director from 1982 to 1991. From 1991 to 1993 he was Dean of Science at the University. He was a visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1969 and at Stanford University in 2001-2002.

His research has been motivated by his interest in contributing to the solution of many problems faced by both individual structural engineers and bodies in charge of writing building codes, as well as in providing them with practical tools. His interest in the development of rational approaches to establish structural design requirements and safety margins led to his involvement in the probabilistic analysis of structural reliability and seismic hazard and risk. He was one of the first researchers to explore the role of the theory of probabilities in earthquake engineering. He developed one of the first sets of attenuation functions of earthquake ground motion intensity, which made feasible the development of quantitative seismic-hazard models for engineering applications. His doctoral dissertation dealt with the assessment of seismicity. This work introduced many novel concepts in the stochastic treatment of earthquake occurrence.

He is the author of a large number of publications in the topics of Earthquake Engineering, Seismic Hazard and Risk Analysis, and Structural Reliability. His professional practice includes structural design from 1959 to 1966 and consulting work in special projects after that time, both in Mexico and abroad. He has participated in the formulation of building codes and seismic design regulations for Mexico and for other countries.

He has served in many national and international committees and boards, including the President of Mexico's Advisory Council on Science; UNESCO committees and missions to earthquake struck regions; ACI, ASCE-IABSE and IASPEI technical committees, among others. He is also an active participant in a vast number of Mexican, Latin American and international associations, academic and technical groups. From 2002 to 2006 he served as President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering. In 2006 he was appointed as Chairman of IFIP Working Group WG7.5 on Reliability and Optimization of Structural Systems.

He has been the recipient of a large number of national and international awards and expressions of recognition, and has been appointed as foreign correspondent of the academies of engineering of several Latin American countries. Since 1996 he is an Honorary Member of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering. Since 2000 he is a Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Engineering of the United States.