

Dr. Suzanne LACASSE
Managing Director
Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI)

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 of Montréal. She obtained her Ph.D. in 1976. She was Lecturer at Ecole Polytechnique of Montréal (1973-1975), and at MIT (1975-1982). She was also Head of the Geotechnical Laboratory at MIT.



Dr. Lacasse became a permanent employee of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) in 1980, where she combined her position at NGI with visiting lectureship at MIT. She took several foreign research and consulting assignments, and has given invited lectures in over 25 countries. She became NGI's Managing Director in 1991 after 10 years as a Senior Engineer for NGI. 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. In recent years, she developed and applied probabilistic analyses to assist in the foundation design and decision process and is well known for these contributions. As Managing Director of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, she maintains a keen interest for the technical aspects of NGI's work, and still carries out research and advisory tasks.

Dr. Lacasse received many awards, including doctorates Honoris Causa from the University of Dundee and the Norwegian University of Trondheim, 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 in 1978. She is member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineers, the Canadian Academy of Engineers, the Norwegian Academy of Engineering and Sciences 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 and a Knight of the First Class in the Order of the Falcon of Iceland She gave the 37th Terzaghi Lecture in 2001. She also gave, among others, the Cross-Canada Lecture Tour of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, the MIT Sam Mathis Lecture, and the Theme Lecture for the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2001. She was President of the Canadian Geotechnical Society in 2003 and 2004.