

On 29 May 2015, the engineer Dr. Ángel García Yagüe, who was awarded a lifetime achievement award by this Institution in recognition of his services in 2008, passed away at the age of 89.

Dr. García Yagüe finished his civil engineering studies in 1956 at the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) having already completed a degree in Mathematical Science from the Complutense University of Madrid.

As an engineer in the then Ministry of Public Works he worked on many engineering projects in, above all, the fields of seismic engineering and geophysical prospections applied to public works and hydrology. In 1961 he was appointed to the Inter-ministerial Commission for Seismic Engineering as the representative of the Ministry of Public Works. He was also a member of the team that drafted the first Spanish regulations on seismic resistance, published in 1968 by the Ministry of the Presidency, which yielded the first treatise published by Dr. García Yagüe on this field of engineering in 1975.

Dr. García Yagüe also conducted research in the field of induced seismicity applied to the filling and draining of reservoirs, which, in the case of the Camarilles reservoir, was to become a yardstick in the observation of this phenomenon, which was still relatively unknown until the 1960s. In the case of Camarillas, Dr Yagüe's work was an important benchmark in world seismological literature as it describes induced seismicity in a reservoir with a relatively low dam wall. Other work followed, including studies of the Almendra dam and the Canales reservoir, which represented in their day – and still do – important standards in the observation of this type of seismicity in Spain.

Dr. García Yagüe's other great contribution to civil engineering was his use of geophysical methods to determine the properties of the underlying terrain, which at the time signified a large step forward in the world of civil engineering. His titanic struggle in the 1960s to convince civil engineers and classical geologists of the technical and economic advantages implicit in applying geophysical prospection methods to civil engineering projects was another of his great achievements that greatly benefitted our country.

We would like also to recall his irrepressible personality that was such an important part of that multi-disciplinary school of engineering whose encyclopaedic knowledge enabled it to tackle and resolve any type of engineering problem. His persuasiveness generated great confidence in the solutions he proposed, which were subsequently confirmed by the experienced gained when put into practice.

Dr. García Yagüe also taught at the Polytechnic University of Madrid's Civil Engineering School, where he trained many students in the field of seismic engineering and other related specializations. He was member of different national organizations such as the Earthquake Engineering and Geology and international (Engineering Geology International Association being Vice-president and the New York Academy of Sciences)

Those of us who were fortunate enough to have known and worked with Dr. García Yagüe will always remember his ingenuity, his tenacity in face of even the toughest problem, and his ability to convince that ensured that his proposals would solve many of the problems that he tackled.

We extend our most sincere condolences to Dr. Yagüe's widow, Emilia Álvarez Esteban, and his seven children at this difficult time for all of them. We would also like to express our gratitude for the time he devoted to all of us and for the knowledge that he so willingly passed on throughout the whole of his lifetime.

Julio Mezcua Rodríguez

President of Fundación J. García Siñeriz