

IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR JULIO KUROIWA

Dr. Julio Kuroiwa was born in San Luis de Cañete, where his childhood and youth are mystified with Peruvian culture by having a cultural interaction between the family (Japanese) and their place of residence (urban agricultural community).

Since he was young, he showed an interest in mathematics and community participation. He came to Lima and finished his studies at the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe School, later entered to the National University of Engineering (UNI), where he graduated as a civil engineer in 1961. He traveled to Japan to study in the first course of IISEE (International Institute of Seismology and Seismic Engineering) that was offered at the campus of the University of Tokyo, 1962.

In the year of 1966, he traveled to the United States to study at CALTECH University, California, where he received classes from Prof. George Housner and Charles Richter among others.

Later he returned to Peru and began his work at the UNI where he shared what he had learned in Japan and the USA through the earthquake engineering course and offered his knowledge to the students of new generations. At the same time, he started his professional activities through his company Kuroiwa & Kogan Associates, developing projects and supervisions of civil engineering works throughout the country. In addition, he shared his activities with the Nikkei community where he actively collaborated over the years. During the year 1970, due to the earthquake, he collaborated with the mission of the University of Tokyo, laying the foundations for the first studies of seismic microzoning in Peru. In conversation with this mission, the idea of having a research center in seismology and seismic engineering for Peru begun. This idea was developed through the CISMID Project (Technical Cooperation Project Peru-Japan - through JICA) who together with Eng. Roberto Morales and his Japanese counterparts Shin Okamoto and Makoto Watabe managed this project. In 1986, he was elected by the faculty council of the FIC as the first director of the Japanese Peruvian Center for Seismic Research and Mitigation of Disasters (CISMID) founded with the support of Japan in 1986, his counterpart and representative of the Japanese mission was Dr. Ichiro Tanahashi.

For more than 40 years, Dr. Kuroiwa had developed research and consultancies in the field of disaster risk management in Peru and several Latin American countries. He produced more than 200 theses with outstanding UNI students such as Martin Vizcarra (Current President of Peru), Francisco Rios, Fernando Lazares, Alberto Delgado, Erik Mas, and many others graduates of the FIC.

In addition to professor emeritus and an honorary doctor of UNI, Dr. Kuroiwa was general manager of "Disaster Risk Reduction Peru International", a consultancy dedicated to risk management and engineering.

Professor Kuroiwa developed plans to reduce damage from tsunamis in Colombia; Ecuador; Central America and the southwest coast of Peru, among others.

He received countless recognitions and international prizes such as being among the 100 most outstanding scientists in the world and belonging to the Hall of Fame of the International Biographical Center of Cambridge, United Kingdom. He also received the United Nations' UN Sazakawa Prize in 1990.

His proposal for Disaster Risk Management became law in Peru since 2010, and thanks to this contribution, it is now required that all engineering projects have this component.

A family man, who had the support of his wife, the support that every good man requires to have a family with values. He had two children, both first-class professionals who will preserve his legacy.

Julio Kuroiwa a life dedicated to the prevention and mitigation of disasters in Peru.

Dr. Carlos Zavala
Director of CISMID-FIC-UNI
President of APEINSIT