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In-memoriam: Cristóbal Mateos Iguacel

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IN-MEMORIAM



Cristóbal Mateos Iguacel

1938–2022

On May 14, 2022, our friend and colleague Cristóbal Mateos Iguacel passed away after a long illness. The IAHR would like to convey to his family our deepest condolences for their loss.

Cristóbal, beyond his extraordinary academic and professional career, was an endearing and down-to-earth person, who was always accessible and who amassed encyclopedic knowledge, not only in engineering but also in the sciences in general and the humanities. His solutions were always pragmatic and convincing and he never sought to impose them on others. Working with Cristóbal or being under his supervision was always a privilege and an honor and what he transmitted has left an unforgettable mark, both humanly and professionally.

Cristóbal was Doctor of Civil Engineering (1965) from the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) and Graduate in Mathematical Sciences (1963) and in Statistics (1964) from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM). He was Professor of Mathematics Applied to Civil Engineering from 1970 to 2009 at the Higher Technical School of Engineers of Roads, Channels, and Ports of the UPM, becoming Professor Emeritus of said center in 2010, after his retirement. He was also a professor at the Colegio Libre de Eméritos of Spain (a private non-profit cultural association).

Over the course of his career at the Center for Hydrographic Studies (CEH) of the Center for Studies and Experimentation of Public Works (CEDEX), where he began working in 1961, he took on multiple responsibilities, reaching the prestigious position of Director of the CEH Hydraulics Laboratory, where under his direction hundreds of physical model tests of hydraulic structures were carried out, as well as numerous numerical studies.

He was involved in the design and/or construction of some 300 projects in Spain and abroad, mainly in relation to dams, canals, river works, and other hydraulic infrastructures, as well as nuclear and thermal power plants, cooperating with research centers worldwide to produce patents.

Cristóbal was interested in high-speed flows, shock waves, air-water mixtures, stratified flows, energy dissipation, hydraulic dam structures, river works, sedimentation in reservoirs, natural disasters caused by floods and the safety of hydraulic infrastructures. He published nearly a hundred articles, presenting numerous papers at congresses and symposiums, both nationally and internationally (IAHR, ASCE, ICOLD, CEDEX, JIA,...) and is the author of several books, written individually or in collaboration with others, including: *Linear Algebra*, *Hydraulics*, *Structural Mathematics Problems and Hydraulic Works in Illustration*.

He also received numerous national and international prizes and awards, including the following: the “Gómez Navarro” from the Juan March Foundation and the Ministry of Education, the research award from the Japanese Ministry of Construction, the Medal of Professional Merit from the College of Civil Engineers, Canals and Ports of Spain, the Commendation of the Order of Isabel La Católica, and was appointed Honorary Member of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR).

He was an active member of the IAHR for many years, participating in many of its congresses and symposiums. When the IAHR moved its World Secretariat to CEDEX in Madrid (Spain) from Delft Hydraulics in Delft (Holland) in 2001 and until 2005 he was its Secretary General, a position from which he adeptly facilitated the smooth and seamless transition between the two headquarters.

Likewise, he was the founding member of the Spanish Chapter of the IAHR in 2009 and its first President until 2015; he was later named Honorary President.

We cannot underscore enough Cristóbal’s wonderful charisma and exceptional career. All those of us who had the good fortune to know and work with him consider ourselves profoundly grateful and we deeply regret such a tremendous loss.

Ramón Gutiérrez Serret, José Dolz, Luis Balairón, Jose María Grassa and Christopher George