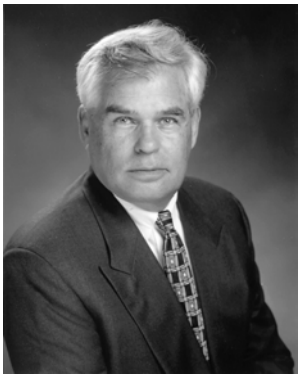
2006 WSSPC Award in Excellence for Lifetime Achievement in Earthquake Risk Reduction

Christopher Rojahn



Christopher Rojahn has dedicated his career to earthquake risk reduction. From 1971 to 1981 he served as a Geophysicist and later a Research Civil Engineer for the U. S. Geological Survey Office of Earthquake Studies in Menlo Park, California, where his work focused on the acquisition and analysis of earthquake strong-motion data from instrumented structures as well as the development of methods for instrumenting buildings and bridges. During that time he also investigated earthquakes in California, Hawaii, Argentina, Nicaragua, Romania, and the Soviet Union.

In 1981 Chris was invited to serve as Executive Director of the Applied Technology Council (ATC), a non-profit corporation in Redwood City, California, founded to develop and promote engineering applications and resources for reducing the effects of natural and other hazards on the built environment.

Under his leadership ATC expanded from an emerging organization in earthquake engineering to a major contributor to earthquake risk reduction. ATC projects undertaken and completed during Chris' tenure have established the basis for earthquake engineering practice in the United States and have greatly influenced public policy in earthquake risk reduction. These projects have defined professionally accepted procedures for rapid and detailed seismic evaluation of buildings (ATC-14, ATC-21, and ATC-22 projects), for seismic rehabilitation (retrofit) of existing buildings (ATC-33 and ATC-40 projects), for postearthquake safety evaluation of buildings (ATC-20 project), for building earthquake damage assessment (ATC-13 and ATC-43 projects), and for the seismic design and retrofit of highway bridges (ATC-6-2, ATC-32, and ATC-49 projects). During this period ATC also conducted important seminars and workshops including: the ATC-17 seminar series on seismic isolation and energy dissipation; and the ATC-29 seminar series on the seismic design, performance and retrofit of nonstructural components. To date, ATC has conducted more than 60 major projects with a total budget in excess of $40 million. Chris is the first to acknowledge that these projects are the product of much hard work contributed by hundreds of professionals, with whom it has been his privilege to work.

Mr. Rojahn has testified before the U. S. Congress and has advised the White House Office of Science Technology Policy on issues relating to earthquake hazard mitigation. In 2003 he received the *Award for Leadership, Innovation, and Outstanding Accomplishments in Earthquake Risk Reduction* from the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Northern California Chapter. In 2004, he was named an Honor Member of Chi Epsilon by Bucknell University; and in 2005, "Structural Engineer of the Year" by the *Journal for the Structural Design of Tall and Special Buildings*. He is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the California Earthquake Safety Foundation, a past Board Member of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and the current Treasurer of the Board of Directors of NEESInc. He is a graduate of Bucknell University, and holds an MS in Civil Engineering (1967) and the Degree of Engineer (in Civil Engineering, 1968), both from Stanford University.