



## Charles Fairhurst

Dr. Fairhurst obtained his Ph.D. in Mining Engineering from the University of Sheffield, UK in 1955. He joined the University of Minnesota faculty, School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1956, serving as Head for several years until 1970, when the Mining program was joined with Civil Engineering to form the Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering. He was Head of the joint Department from 1973-87, and retired in 1997. He supervised 25 Ph.D. students on a variety of topics in basic and applied rock mechanics.

As a private consultant (and Senior Consultant with Itasca since 1981), Dr. Fairhurst has more than 70 years of experience in mining rock mechanics and has consulted on rock stability problems for tunnels, dams, mines, and excavations throughout the world. He has also been actively engaged for almost 50 years in the problems of geological isolation of high and intermediate-level nuclear waste in the U.S. and internationally. His current emphasis is on the mechanics of fracture propagation in naturally fractured rock under explosive loading and the effective stimulation of geothermal reservoirs.

He served as President of the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) from 1991-1995 and has been elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (1979) and the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (1991). He is a Fellow of the ISRM and Fellow of the American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA).

Dr. Fairhurst holds honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Nancy, France; St. Petersburg Mining Academy, Russia; University of Sheffield, England; and University of Minnesota, USA; and is Advisory Professor to Tongji University, Shanghai, China.

In December, 2013, he was inducted as Officier, Légion d'Honneur, France.