OBITUARY

Alfonso López Arroyo, 1927–2017

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On July 9, the Spanish seismological community lost one of his leading figures. Born in Guadalajara, Spain, López Arroyo obtained his Licenciatura in Mathematics in 1950 by the Universidad Complutense of Madrid; in 1954, his Master of Science in Geophysics by the Saint

Louis University, Missouri; and in 1961, the degree of Doctor Ingeniero Geógrafo by the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN). From 1952 to 1956, he was Assistant Professor at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid and from 1956 he worked as a geographical engineer at the IGN, Madrid. From 1958 to 1965, López Arroyo was the director of the Seismological Observatory of Malaga and from 1966 occupied leading positions in the sections of Geophysics and Seismology and in 1980 was Deputy Director of Geophysics and Geodesy at the IGN. In 1972–1973, he was Research Associate at the Seismological Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey at Boulder, CO. He has occupied many important positions related to seismology such as President of the Section of Seismology and Physics of the Earth Interior of the Spanish National Commission of the IUGG, Secretary of the Spanish Permanent Commission of Seismic Codes, and founding member and President of the Spanish Association of Seismic Engineering. He has participated in the organization of a number of important workshops, conferences, and congresses especially the 10th World Congress of Earthquake Engineering in Madrid in 1992.

López Arroyo, together with Gonzalo Payo (Director of the Observatory of Toledo) and José M. Munuera (Director of Seismology at IGN), began modern studies of seismicity and seismotectonics of the Iberian Peninsula and was a pioneer of the studies of seismic engineering in Spain. His contributions to seismology covered a wide spectrum from the most theoretical aspects of this science to the practical applications to engineering. López Arroyo has cultivated many frontier subjects

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in seismology, seismic engineering, and geophysical methodologies. Specially, he has worked on the characteristics of Spanish earthquakes, wave propagation and the structure of the Earth, specially its inner core, and many aspects of earthquake engineering. His keen understanding, his wide spectrum of knowledge and experience, and his generosity and kindness has always been

an incentive and positive influence in his many collaborators that recognize him as a leading figure in Spanish seismological and earthquake engineering community.