



Juan Carlos de la Llera Martin, Dean, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Chile

Dr. Juan Carlos de la Llera Martin is currently the Dean of the School of Engineering at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, one of the top ranked schools in Latin America. He is a structural engineer by training and obtained his Ph.D. at University of California at Berkeley in 1994 in the area of earthquake engineering. Back to Chile in 1995, he has been continuously supported in his research by different programs of the Chilean research and innovation agencies CONICYT and CORFO. Among other curricular innovations, in his career he has developed the creation of a research group in seismic protection techniques that led to the development of one of the most advanced laboratories in this field in the region. His contributions to innovation consist of several patents of seismic devices that were successfully tested in different structures during the 2010 Chile earthquake and are being used in seismic countries elsewhere, one successful technology based company incubated at the university, and a number of national and international recognitions such as the award of Entrepreneur of the Year presented by Endeavor in 2011. His research in nonlinear structural and experimental dynamics, seismic structural performance, and seismic risk, have also led to several national and international distinctions, in particular, the international recognition John Munro Award in 2002. His research is currently focused in structural and social vulnerability of the new research center CIGIDEN, dedicated to the Integrated Management of Natural Disasters. As a Dean he has been involved in a profound transformation of the School of Engineering by making it more socially inclusive, by increasing the capacities and relevance of its research, and by generating a better articulation with the productive and public sectors of the country through innovation. This transformation also involves and attempt to influence the more conservative engineering and science culture that inhibits the explosive development of a culture of technology and science based innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty.