



Irasema Alcántara-Ayala

Irasema Alcántara-Ayala born in Mexico City in November, 1970. She got her first degree in Geography at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). In 1997, she obtained her PhD in Geography with speciality in Geomorphology from King's College London, University of London. Afterwards, she carried out a postdoctoral stay in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston. Director and Professor of the Institute of Geography at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Her research is concentrated on mass movement processes, natural hazards, risks, vulnerability and prevention of disasters. She has published numerous peer reviewed papers and book chapters, as well as presented her work at numerous international meetings. In 2005 she was awarded the 3rd Evelyn Pruitt Lecture by the Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, USA. Member of diverse Editorial Boards of renown scientific journals such as *Earth, Surface, Processes and Landforms*, *Journal of Mountain Science*, *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, among others. From 2002 to 2005, she acted as a member of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) Executive Committee. Irasema was appointed as the International Geographical Union (IGU) Representative within Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, as well as in the conference: *Global Scientific Challenges: Perspectives from Young Scientists (An international conference celebrating 75 years of ICSU)*. IGU theme leader of the "International Year of Planet Earth" (IYPE) related to the topic of Deep Earth –from crust to core-. President of the Mexican Society of Geomorphology, Chair of the Geomorphological Hazards Working Group of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), member of the International Consortium on Landslides and Vice-President of the International Geographical Union (IGU) since 2008.