

Curriculum vitae

Vit Klemes was born and educated in what used to be Czechoslovakia. He received a Civil Engineering degree (Ing) from the Technical University in Brno (Moravia), a CSc degree (a local equivalent of PhD) in hydrology and water resources from the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava (Slovakia) and a DrSc degree from the Czech Technical University in Prague (Bohemia).

After graduation in 1955, he worked for almost a decade in construction, design and planing of dams and water resource systems, which stimulated his interest in the theory of storage reservoirs, hydrology, systems analysis, stochastic modelling, and their applications in water resources engineering. In 1963 he joined the Institute of Hydrology and Hydraulics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava and since then pursued a research career.

Following the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, Dr. Klemes and his family came to Canada in September 1968. Here he obtained a position of associate professor at the University of Toronto, first in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and later in the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Engineering. In 1972 he was appointed research hydrologist at the National Hydrology Research Institute of Environment Canada, a position he held for 17 years; after the institute's move from Ottawa to Saskatoon, he also served as its chief scientist. From 1990 to 1999 he was a water resources consultant in Victoria BC, where he and his wife now live in retirement.

During his career Dr. Klemes has authored about 150 scientific and technical publications, lectured extensively on all five continents, was visiting professor at the California Institute of Technology (CalTech), the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, Monash University in Melbourne, Agricultural University (BOKU) in Vienna, the University of Karlsruhe, and in 1994 was appointed Invited Professor at Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique of Universite du Quibec.

In 1987 he was elected President of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) and his work has been recognized by a number of awards; among other, he received a Gold Medal from the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1993), the International Hydrology Prize from the IAHS (1994), the Ray K. Linsley Award from the American Institute of Hydrology (1995) and the Ven Te Chow Award from the American Society of Civil Engineering (1998).