GEOFÍSICA INTERNACIONAL
SPECIAL VOLUME ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19 SEPTEMBER 1985 EARTHQUAKE

The morning of 19 September 1985, Mexico City awakened to strong and prolonged shaking of the ground. The origin of the motion was an earthquake located approximately 350 km to the southwest of the city, in the subduction zone along the Pacific coast of Mexico. When the oscillations of the basin subsided, after an anomalously long period of approximately four minutes of strong shaking, the central part of the city showed damage which was unprecedented, unforeseen and, at the time, incomprehensible. Since, the soft soils of Mexico City have become paradigmatic and the study of its behavior the subject of voluminous literature. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1985 Michoacan earthquake and to publish some of the recent research on the subject, Geofísica Internacional edited this Special Volume. The manuscripts in this Special Volume encompass a broad range of topics that include recent theoretical and experimental work on the behavior of the soft clays of the city, studies on the geological structure of the basin and on the seismic hazard posed of potentially large earthquakes from various geological structures, that may affect Mexico City in the future. This Special Volume presents a diverse sample of current research and future scientific challenges. It is the hope of these guest editors that the work published in this Special Volume entices other scientists to embark on future state-of-the-art work that will result in knowledge that is conducive to better and more appropriate building codes and construction practices, which may help to mitigate loss of lives and harm to the city's infrastructure.

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