DANIEL DIAZ SALGADO, A.M. ASCE

REGION 6 GOVERNOR

My main interest is to improve access and connectivity to public transportation in emergent cities in Mexico. I believe that future infrastructure needs the participation of multiple actors to achieve better results. Hence, I would like to include the economic, political, planning and technological aspects of infrastructure in all my professional activities. I think that denying this multidisciplinary approach may lead to partial solutions and temporary relief.

I was born in Acapulco, in the state of Guerrero. Guerrero's mountains are mainly populated by isolated communities. Many engineers coming from big cities are wary to take jobs in isolated places. It is not the case of my father. I grew up admiring his work. He is a skillful road builder, and he has never been afraid of working at distant, dangerous communities: his labor has contributed to bring them development. As he proudly says, the jobs that bring joy and welfare to the people are the most valuable ones. Civil engineers like my father have constructed roads that bring with them education, electricity, commerce and health services. Through him, I experienced firsthand how civil engineering is the catalyst for progress and well-being.

I spent my social service at the Engineering Institute at UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) in the transportation department, where I got involved in projects related to cableways, which were part of my thesis. I was involved in multiple projects that connected me with the College of Civil Engineers of Mexico (CICM), an organization dedicated to join all the national civil engineers to advocate for the main national infrastructure projects, and I became the President of its student chapter. After finishing school, I got involved in the Mexico Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers trying to reach a more complex network of professionals to have a different point of view of these particular topics. All these activities were strictly voluntary and not monetarily compensated. All of them made me realize that civil engineering also has a strong human part. Every engineer should be participative and promote the changes needed for a region to reach welfare.

During my last years as a civil engineering student, I accepted a job offer at the Ministry of Public Works, I knew that Mexico City was a reference in every aspect infrastructure relates, so I chose to learn the best practices that we are implementing. With this in mind, I became a public official to develop and advocate for the infrastructure, working to benefit the quality of life of millions of citizens.

As a public servant, I developed my career in a difficult political and social environment. Poverty and inequality, both of them highly complex problems, strike every country of the world, and Mexico is not the exception. In such a context, I used engineering as an instrument to benefit the people. I had the opportunity to witness how infrastructure detonates changes in Mexico City's marginal communities. Based on that experience, I can say that well-implemented infrastructure projects are extremely important to shift towards a more equal and just society.

I am convinced that the best way to help others as a professional engineer is to prepare myself with strong academic and professional experience. I'm passionate about Infrastructure topics that benefit from a sustainable, long-term vision of urban planning. I hope to become a leader in the Mexican infrastructure development and accomplish one of my deepest passions: to help my country to successfully overcome the challenges of climate change and poverty.