

## PROFILE: Professor Janaka Ruwanpura, Ph.D., P.Eng., PQS, MRICS, FCSCE



Professor Janaka Ruwanpura is the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (International) (equivalent to Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the UK system) at the University of Calgary from Sept. 2020. He has been the Vice-Provost International (VPI) since 2013. He is also the current elected Executive Chair of the Commission of International Initiatives of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) as the first Canadian and Non-American to chair any of the councils and commissions of APLU. He was a full Professor and Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Project Management Systems (2007-13) in the Schulich School of Engineering at the University of Calgary, Canada before he became the Vice-Provost International. He is the Founding Director of the Centre for Project Management Excellence at the University of Calgary and has been the Director of Project Management since 2005. He earned his Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in 1992, a Master of Science in Construction Management from Arizona State University in 1997, and a Ph.D. in Construction Engineering and Management from the University of Alberta in 2001. Professor Ruwanpura joined the University of Calgary as an assistant professor in 2001.

Prof. Ruwanpura, a former US Fulbright scholar, has developed many best practices and tools that have been successfully implemented in the construction industry for productivity improvement, project management, project planning, construction management, risk management, decision analysis and sustainability. He has published over 180 technical papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings. Prof. Ruwanpura has also been recognized with many national and international awards for teaching, research, innovation, leadership, service, graduate education and internationalization. These awards includes "Industry Partnership Award" in 2012 for his contribution to Canadian Construction Industry in terms collaboration, innovation and transformation, Walter Shanly career award for construction engineering from the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and the Brian D. Dunfield Education Service from the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering, "Immigrants of Distinction Award" for his contributions in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math from Immigrant Services Calgary, Life Time Achievement Award from Sri Lanka Foundation in Los Angeles and recently International Achievement Award from the City of Calgary. During his Vice-Provost role (renewed in July 2018 for 5 years), he was active in research and received two awards – prestigious Alberta Science and Technology's for one of his research projects under "Outstanding Achievement in Applied Technology" (2018) and research achievement award from the Schulich School of Engineering (2017). He was inducted as a Distinguished Alumni to the Academy of the School of Sustainable Engineering and Built Environment, Arizona State University in March 2019.

As the recipient of the University of Calgary's International Achievement Award in 2006, Prof. Ruwanpura's passion for international activities grew-up over the years and the University of Calgary appointed him as the Vice-Provost (International) to lead the realization of the university's international strategy. Prof. Ruwanpura had agreed to give up his second term of the Canada Research Chair

appointment to lead the Internationalization efforts of the University due to his passion and interests in this area. Before being appointed as Vice-Provost (International), his involvement in international activities is comprehensive, including teaching, training, research, administration and service activities. He also served as the convener (from 2010) and co-leader for the International Institute for Infrastructure Renewal and Reconstruction, a multi-university consortium of over 20 Universities around the world, which has collaborative research in disaster planning and management.

During his 7 years as VPI, he has brought new initiatives to the University of Calgary including developing and implementing collaborative degree models for undergraduate and graduate levels, offering customized training and capacity building programs, co-developing Global Research Initiatives and Sites in China and Mexico and raising funding for research and infrastructure (over \$57 Million), establishing and promoting new research opportunities and partnerships in number of countries (USA, UK, Germany, China, Mexico, Norway, India, etc.), promoting and developing new funding models (over \$1 Million per year) for opportunities for students' international experience and to enhance international exposure for faculty and staff and securing, raising research internships through MITACS (\$5.4 Million) and lobbying for international development grants (over \$22 Million). Because of these initiatives UCalgary won 6 competitive awards since 2016 including the "Comprehensive Internationalization" award from the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) and the "Platinum" Institutional Award for "Global Learning, Research & Engagement" from APLU. He recently led to develop an International Partnership Assessment Rating Index (IPARI) to assess existing university partnerships, identify top partners in each country and develop strategic partnerships. UCalgary received the Catalyst award for innovation for IPARI from CBIE and the Innovation Award in Internationalization from the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA).

He is a licensed professional engineer (P.Eng.) in Alberta and a professional quantity surveyor (PQS) in Canada. He is also a Professional/Chartered Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, UK (MRICS) and a fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (FCSCE).



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Updated Sept. 15, 2020