

**Early Career Members Event**  
**Wednesday 19th February 2014 at 6:30 pm**  
Imperial College London, Skempton Building

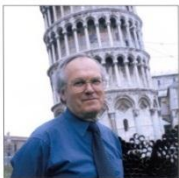
**Good Practice for Young Geo-Engineers:**

**Boots, Computers and Engineering Judgement**

**Professor John Burland**

The BGA are pleased to invite you to the first ECM event of 2014. The event will recognise John Burland's commitment to transferring knowledge and good practice to young and early career geotechnical engineers and explore the key elements of geotechnical engineering. There will be time for debate and discussion and the event will be followed by drinks and nibbles. Thanks are extended to our generous sponsor Atkins and of course to Imperial College London for hosting the event.

The speaker will describe some of the challenges he has had to face as a practising geotechnical engineer. The ground offers a continuing and ever varying challenge which demands a wide range of skills and experience. These are some of the questions he will try to address: How important is geology? When is it necessary to carry out sophisticated testing? What reliance can we place on modern methods of numerical analysis? What role does this so called "judgement" play? How should geotechnical and structural engineers interact?



**Professor John Burland**, CBE, DSc (Eng), FEng, FRS was educated in South Africa and studied Civil Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand. He returned to England in 1961 and worked with Ove Arup and Partners for a few years in London. After studying for his PhD at Cambridge University, Professor Burland joined the Building Research Station in 1966, became Head of the Geotechnics Division in 1972 and Assistant Director in 1979. In 1980 he was appointed to the Chair of Soil Mechanics at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. He is now Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Investigator at Imperial College.

In addition to being very active in teaching (which he loves) and research, John has been responsible for the design of many large ground engineering projects such as the underground car park at the Palace of Westminster and the foundations of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. He specialises in problems relating to the interaction between the ground and masonry buildings. He was London Underground's expert witness for the Parliamentary Select Committees on the Jubilee Line Extension and has advised on many geotechnical aspects of that project, including ensuring the stability of the Big Ben Clock Tower. He was a member of the international board of consultants advising on the stabilisation of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Mexico City and was a member of the Italian Prime Minister's Commission for stabilising the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

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