A Tale of Two Towers - Pisa and Big Ben

Professor John B. Burland CBE DSc(Eng) FRS FREng FICE FIStructE

The speaker studied civil engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and gained his early practical experience with Ove Arup and Partners in London. He obtained his PhD degree from Cambridge University and then joined the Building Research Establishment where he became head of the Geotechnics Division and later Assistant Director in charge of the Materials and Structures Division. In 1980 he was appointed to the Chair of Soil Mechanics at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, where he is now Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Investigator.

Abstract

The Leaning Tower of Pisa was on the point of collapse and the Big Ben clock tower was threatened by the Jubilee Line extension. Intimately involved with the stabilisation of these famous towers, Professor John Burland FRS tells the fascinating, dramatic story.

8.00 pm Monday 3rd April 2006, Rochestown Park Hotel.

(Cheese and wine after lecture – courtesy of RPS Consulting Engineers)

All are welcome

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