



# An overview of the 2022 RILEM Spring Convention and RILEM 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

Paris, France, 14-19 March 2022

The 2022 RILEM Spring Convention was a hybrid set of events held at the new headquarters of RILEM, at the University of Gustave Eiffel, in Paris, France. In brief, this is what happened:

- The Standing Committees EAC, TAC, DAC and Bureau met on Monday 14, Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 March.
- On Thursday 17 March, the 75<sup>th</sup> RILEM anniversary was celebrated with a full-day webinar rich of presentations and discussions.
- The [First International Conference on Earthen Construction](#) was held in person on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 March.



## Standing Committees

The Standing committee meetings were held in hybrid mode over 3 days. The RILEM officers who attended in person were welcomed by the hospitality of the RILEM General Secretariat staff. It was wonderful to shake hands again! The occasion was also marked by the introduction of less restrictive Covid measures in France according to which it was no longer compulsory to wear masks in offices, schools, and shops.



*RILEM officers and staff attending in person the RILEM Spring Convention in Paris. From the left: Wolfram Schmidt, Ravindra Gettu, Anne Griffoin, Aurelie Martingale, Daman Panesar, Daniela Ciancio, Nele De Belie, Gabriele Tebaldi, Mohammed Sonebi and Jud*



*RILEM officers during a Standing Committee meeting. Picture courtesy of Daniela Ciancio.*

At the EAC meeting, the agenda of the upcoming EAC events and the performance of the past events were reviewed. The [ROC&TOK webinars](#) stood out as a very successful series with high number of online participants and YouTube viewers. The proposal of the RILEM Youth Council to organise a new series of peer-to-peer webinars was enthusiastically welcomed and approved by the members of



EAC. More information on this matter will soon be released through the RILEM communication channels. The Education Platform **ON**-line - [EPON](#) - initiative is under progress.

At the TAC meeting, the discussion about the implementation of ideas suggested at the [last RILEM Strategic Workshop](#) was resumed, like for instance, *i)* the importance of tracking the impact of RILEM in general, and more specifically tracking the impact of the work of the RILEM Technical Committees, *ii)* the involvement of more RILEM industry members into the activities of all RILEM TCs, and *iii)* the emphasis of the environmental aspects of the work of a TC. Some TCs were officially closed and 8 new TCs were approved. More information on this matter will soon be released through the RILEM communication channels.

At the DAC meeting, DAC members finalised the discussion started at the meeting “in” Merida last year ([75<sup>th</sup> RILEM Annual Week](#)) about the implementation of ideas suggested at the [last RILEM Strategic Workshop](#): the relationship with the industry sector and new opportunities for RILEM Young members. The General Secretary presented the RILEM membership figures, with the number of RILEM members going up. The RILEM Implementation Manager showed the current situation of the RILEM social media channels and [newsletter](#).

At the Bureau, the details of the future Spring Conventions and Annual Weeks were presented by the corresponding organisers. Here comes a list of the upcoming events:

#### RILEM Annual Weeks

- 2022 - 76th Annual Week, Kyoto, Japan
- 2023 - 77th Annual Week, Vancouver, Canada
- 2024 - 78th Annual Week, Toulouse, France
- 2025 - 79th Annual Week, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2026 - 80th Annual Week, Nairobi, Kenya

#### RILEM Spring Conventions

- 2023 - Rabat, Morocco
- 2024 - Milano, Italy
- 2025 - Mendrisio, Switzerland
- 2026 - Ghent, Belgium



*RILEM Dinner: the RILEM officers attending in person the Standing Committee meetings were treated with a dinner at “Le Café Marly”, next to the Louvre Museum in Paris. Pictures Courtesy of Wolfram Schmidt.*

#### **Celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Webinar event**

The celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RILEM was a fully online event that started with [the welcome speech of Dr. Nicolas Roussel](#), RILEM President. It continued with three sessions: 1) RILEM Main Traditional Subjects, Construction Materials & Research, 2) Sustainability & Future of Construction and 3) Strategy & Perspective of RILEM. The first two sessions were made up of 10



presentations in total, all available on the [RILEM YouTube Channel](#). The speakers were internationally recognised experts who presented the “State of the Art” of different research areas like, for instance, earthen materials, digital fabrication, concrete durability, etc... The first two sessions were set apart for the Award Ceremony, during which the 2022 RILEM Gustavo Colonnetti medallists, Dr. Ellina Bernard and Prof. Qing-Feng Liu, presented their work. The presentations of the 2022 RILEM medallists are also available on [YouTube](#). The third session was a panel discussion amongst the Chairs of the Standing Committees, the Editors in Chief of the RILEM journals, [Materials and Structures](#) and [RILEM Technical Letters](#), and the RILEM Presidency. The panel members discussed about Open Access strategy, science popularization and participatory research, [GLOBE](#), RILEM Youth, leadership and inclusivity. Prof. Ravindra Gettu, Past RILEM President, presented the concluding remarks at the end of the day. Each session had an average of 200 attendees with a total of 425 participants connecting from around 60 different countries (RILEM is an international organization, indeed! Isn't it?) from Uganda to Kazakhstan, from Cameroon to Ireland. The most represented countries were France, Germany, India, UK and USA.

### **First International Conference on Earthen Construction**

It was the first RILEM event held in person in the last 2 years! The conference was organised by the members of the RILEM TC [274-TCE : Testing and characterisation of earth-based building materials and elements](#). This event gathered around 130 delegates from 9 different countries (France, Switzerland, Portugal, Canada, Germany, Turkey, United Kingdom, Denmark, Burkina Faso). It consisted of 2 keynotes, 6 invited lectures and 65 short presentations. The two Best PhD presentation awards were given to: 1) Sofia Roucan from UPPA and ENTPE, France, and Pierre Estève from the University of Edinburgh, UK. The proceedings will be available soon on the conference [website](#).

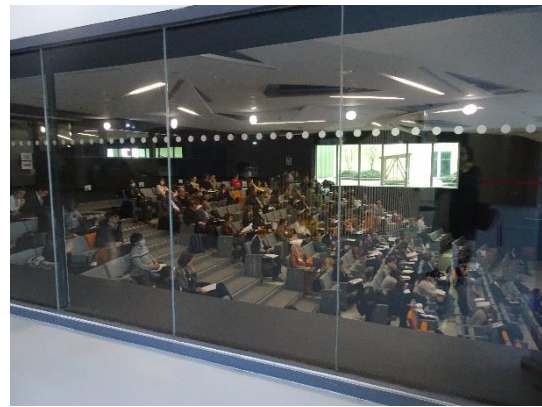
Many young researchers attended the conference, making the average age of the delegates maybe the most striking aspect of this event. The Gala Dinner was organised at the restaurant “Le Train Bleu” in Paris, on Friday night. The Second International Conference on Earthen Construction will be organised in 2024!



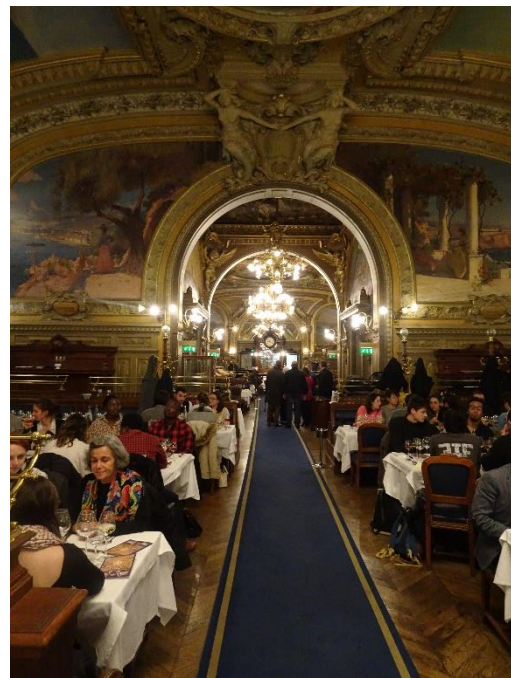
*From the left: Prof. Henri Van Damme, keynote speaker, Dr Emmanuel Keita, Chair of the organising committee, and Dr Nicolas Roussel, RILEM President. Image courtesy of E. Keita.*



*Dr Emmanuel Keita, Chair of the organising committee, opening the conference. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.*



*The conference venue at the Gustave Eiffel University, Paris, France. Images courtesy of D. Ciancio.*



*Some moments during the gala dinner at the restaurant "Le Train Bleu". Images courtesy of D. Ciancio.*



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