

The 76th RILEM Annual Week and International Conference on Regeneration and Conservation of Structures (ICRCS 2022) took place in Kyoto, Japan, from 3 to 9 September 2022. The Chair of the 76<sup>th</sup> RILEM Annual Week Organising Committee was Prof. Takafumi Noguchi, University of Tokyo, Japan, and 2022 RILEM Honorary President. The Chair of the ICRCS organising Committee was Prof. Kei-ichi Imamoto, Tokyo University of Science, Japan. Let's have a look in details to what happened during this event.



Like all other Annual Weeks, also this one hosted the meetings of the Standing Committees TAC, DAC, EAC, BoEs, DEV, and Bureau.

### TAC

The following TCs were closed:

- [273-RAC Structural behaviour and innovation of recycled aggregate concrete](#), Cluster C
- [274-TCE Testing and characterisation of earth-based building materials and elements](#), Cluster E
- [272-PIM Phase and Interphase behaviour of bituminous Materials](#), Cluster F.

The following TCs received a number:

[302- CNC : Carbon-based nanomaterials for multifunctional cementitious matrices](#), and [303-PFC : Performance requirements and testing of fresh printable cement-based materials](#), both in Cluster A.

New RILEM TCs were approved; their details will be advertised soon.

TAC members nominated two new jury members for the 2023 Robert L'Hermite & Gustavo Colonnetti Medals: Josée Duchesne (Cluster B convener) and Daniel Oliveira (TAC expert). RILEM TAC chair, Prof. Enrico Sassoni, and *Materials and Structures* Editor in Chief, Prof. John Provis, will continue to be part of the jury.



*RILEM desk with RILEM publications. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.*

### DAC

DAC members nominated two new members for a 1st mandate of two years (2022 & 2023):

- The regional Convener for China: Prof. Dr. Shilang XU, Zhejiang University, replacing Prof. Kefei LI, Tsinghua University.
- The East Asia regional Convener: Dr Guoqing GENG, National University of Singapore, replacing Prof. Sungchul BAE, Hanyang University.

DAC also discussed the increasing numbers of RILEM members as well as the policy to attract even more young members and Industry members; an overview of the RILEM finances; the RILEM Youth Council (RYC) numerous activities; and the future RILEM events.



*DAC hybrid meeting. Picture courtesy of D. Ciancio.*

## EAC

The RILEM educational activities are numerous and successful, as shown by the number of participants of the past ROC&TOK and Peer-to-peer webinars. The calendar of the upcoming events was discussed and approved. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the details of the [EAC PhD course](#) that took place in hybrid mode in Kyoto the week before the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Week.

## Board of Editors

[Materials and Structures](#) (MAAS): the journal is very active, receiving around 1600-1700 submissions every year, with an overall acceptance rate of ~13%.

The members welcomed the new Managing Editor, Dr Arosha Dabarera, University of Sheffield, UK. It was decided that also the TC Deputy Chairs, and not only the TC Chairs, are officially part of the Editorial Advisory Committee of MAAS.

[RILEM Technical Letters](#) (RTL): With the sponsoring of RILEM, all RTL articles are published free of charge and are available in full open access. The Editorial board reminded everyone that submission rules are not only upon invitation of the Editorial Board, but also upon submission proposal (abstract) by authors.

## General Council (GC)

The proposals of the Standing Committees were discussed at the DEVELOPMENT meeting (the DEV meeting allows RILEM officers to be informed of all the standing committees discussions) and at Bureau meeting and, once approved, they were voted at the General Council (GC) meeting which was held in hybrid mode.

RILEM members attending the GC elected:

- The 2023 RILEM Honorary President: Prof. Nemkumar Banthia, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
- The new Treasurer, Prof. Sofiane Amziane, University Clermont Auvergne, France. All members acknowledged the work of former treasurer Prof. Pietro Lura, Empa, Switzerland, for his work over the past years.



Prof. Sofiane AMZIANE  
University Clermont Auvergne,  
France



Prof. Nemkumar BANTHIA  
University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver, Canada

During the meeting, the [2022 RILEM Fellows and Honorary members](#) were announced.

The 2022 Honorary members are:

- Dr Peter Richner, Empa Switzerland
- Prof. Konstantin Kovler, NBRI, Israel
- Prof. Robert Douglas Hooton, University of Toronto, Canada
- Mrs. Pascale Ducornet, RILEM, France.

The 2022 Fellows are:

- Prof. P.A. Muhammed Basheer, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
- Dr Barbara Lothenbach, Empa, Switzerland
- Dr Wolfram Schmidt, BAM, Germany.





Some moments during the opening reception of ICRCs 2022. Picture courtesy of D. Ciancio.

The International Conference on Regeneration and Conservation of Structures (ICRCs 2022) officially kicked off on Wed 7, September. After the opening speeches of the 2022 RILEM Honorary President, Takafumi Noguchi, the RILEM President, Nicolas Roussel, the Japanese Concrete Institute President, Minehiro Nishiyama, and the Building Research Institute President, Takao Sawachi, there came the time for the Robert L’Hermite lecture by the 2022 medallist Prof. Susan A. Bernal Lopez. The presentation can be watched on the RILEM YouTube channel [here](#).



Prof. Susan A. Bernal Lopez presenting the 2023 R. L’Hermite lecture. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.

The TCs that presented their work at the 76<sup>th</sup> RILEM Annual Week were:

- 266-MRP: Measuring Rheological Properties of Cement-based Materials, presented by Dimitri Feys, TC Deputy Chair
- 275-HDB: Hygrothermal Behaviour and Durability of Bio-aggregate based Building Materials presented by Sofiane Amziane, TC Chair
- 269-IAM: Damage Assessment in Consideration of Repair/ Retrofit-Recovery in Concrete and Masonry Structures by Means of Innovative NDT presented by Tomoki Shiotani, TC Chair
- 273-RAC: Structural Behaviour and innovation of Recycled Aggregate Concrete presented by Jianzhuang Xiao, TC Chair
- 278-CHA: Crack-Healing of Asphalt Pavement Materials presented by Hassan Baaj, TC Chair.

The videos of these presentations will soon be available on the RILEM YouTube Channel.

The young delegates that attended the conference with a poster participated to the [RILEM Best Student Poster Award](#). The winner was Suhas Suresh Joshi, recently granted a Ph.D. at the University of Tokyo, who presented a poster titled “Analytical investigation of corrosion cracking factors in multi rebar concrete panels using 3D-mesoscale simulation”. Dr Joshi received a prize of 500 € from RILEM and a complimentary registration for the 77<sup>th</sup> RILEM Annual Week in Vancouver, Canada, next year. Six more complimentary registrations for the 77<sup>th</sup> RILEM Annual Week next year were also awarded by RILEM 2023 Honorary



Dr Suhas Suresh Joshi receiving his Best Student Poster Award. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.



President, Prof. Banthia, to six young delegates for the quality of their posters (outstanding poster award). More info can be found [here](#).

The RILEM banquet was held at the Sodoh Higashiyama on Wednesday, 7 September. The ICRC 2022 gala dinner took place at the Hotel Okura Kyoto on Thursday night. On Friday, the ICRC 2022 organisers took the delegates to two technical visits: 1) Nishi Hongwanji Temple and 2) Daitokuji Temple.



*RILEM President Nicolas Roussel, on the right, speaking at the RILEM Banquet. Image courtesy of D. Ciancio.*



*Some moments of the ICRC22 gala dinner with the RILEM Presidents and the conference organisers. Images courtesy of D. Ciancio.*



*Some moments of the ICRC22 gala dinner. At the centre, RILEM President Nicolas Roussel, shaking hands with 2022 RILEM Honorary President Takafumi Noguchi. Images courtesy of D. Ciancio.*

In spite of the fact that face masks were still compulsory indoors in Japan, the general atmosphere was very pleasant and relaxed, and COVID was a faded memory. Delegates and RILEM members were eager to meet, to chat and to shake hands. The parallel sessions of the conference were a venue to present new ideas; the coffee breaks an opportunity to discuss research topics and establish new collaborations. A highlight of this event was the extensive participation of TAC Chair, Enrico Sassoni, who connected online at 1 AM (Italian time) on Wednesday to introduce the R. L'Hermitte lecture; Enrico remained connected to chair the TCs presentations and, ultimately, he attended the Bureau meeting until around 11 AM, Italian time. Thank you, Enrico! Another highlight was the presence of the youngest RILEM member: Luna. Not 4-year-old yet, Luna has already attended three RILEM events in person: the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Week in Nanjing, China, in 2019; the Spring Convention in Guimaraes, Portugal, in 2020; and the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Week in Kyoto, Japan. Well done, Luna!



*Luna with outgoing RILEM president Prof. Ravindra Gettu, and her mum, Dr Natalia Alderete. Images courtesy of D. Ciancio.*

The [next \(77<sup>th</sup>\) Annual Week](#) will take place in Vancouver, Canada, on 4-8 September 2023. Until then, *Mata chikaiuchini!*