

77th RILEM Annual Week and 1st Interdisciplinary Symposium on Smart & Sustainable Infrastructures (ISSSI2023)

4-8 September 2023, Vancouver, Canada

The 77th RILEM Annual Week took place in Vancouver, BC, Canada, this year, jointly with the 1st Interdisciplinary Symposium on Smart & Sustainable Infrastructures (ISSSI2023).

The organisers of this event, all from [SIERA \(Sustainable Infrastructure Research\)](#) Group within the Department of Civil Engineering, The University of British Columbia, worked hard to plan every single detail of this 5-day long event (from 4 to 8 September 2023). ISSSI2023 received 417



abstracts from 55 countries. After a rigorous review, these resulted in nearly 250 presentations, with close to 300 delegates from 39 countries. Did you miss the event? This is what happened!

On Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 September, the Standing Committees' meetings took place; in addition, 6 TCs held a meeting ([ACP](#), [FEE](#), [284-CEC](#), [297-DOC](#), [305-PCC](#), [285-TMS](#)) and [3 doctoral courses](#) were offered by EAC.

TAC

• TAC membership

- Kei-ichi Imamoto was nominated Cluster C Convener, replacing Giovanni Plizzari after his exceptional contribution to TAC during the last 10 years!
- Susan Bernal Lopez was nominated TAC expert, replacing Kei-ichi Imamoto
- Liberato Ferrara was nominated TAC Expert replacing Sergio Henrique Pialarissi Cavalaro
- Prannoy Suraneni was nominated TAC expert, replacing Klaartje De Weerd



TAC officers at work during the TAC meeting.

• TAC matters

- Three TCs were closed: [275-HDB](#), [269-IAM](#), and [293-CCH](#)
- Two TCs were assigned a number: [309-MCP](#), and [310-TPT](#)
- Three new TCs were approved, but you will read more about this in the following weeks
- Some guidelines will soon be available for TC members to help the management of those TC having a high number of members.

DAC

• DAC membership

- Romildo D. Toledo Filho was nominated National Convener for Brazil, replacing Eduardo M.R. Fairbairn
- Kolluru Subramaniam was nominated Regional Convener for [South Asia](#), replacing Radhakrishna G. Pillai
- Vyacheslav Sergeyevich was nominated Regional Convener for [East Europe & Central Asia](#), replacing Vyatcheslav R. Falikman



DAC officers at work during the DAC meeting.

- José Norambuena-Contreras was nominated Regional Convener for [Latin America](#), replacing Alejandro Duran-Herrera
- Ueli Angst was nominated Second National Convener for [Europe](#)
- Paulina Faria was nominated DAC expert, replacing Hiroyuki Miyauchi
- Pan Feng was nominated DAC expert, replacing Jiaping Liu
- **DAC matters**
 - RILEM members keep increasing, with a notable growth in the number of new corporate and staff members.
 - A good number of activities have taken place in most regional groups.
 - New partnership agreements have been proposed; the relationship with ACI and ICT is building up
 - The RYC initiatives are flourishing
 - DAC Members proposed a revision of the membership' fees, validated at Bureau and voted at the General Council (see details below).

EAC

- **EAC membership**
 - Janina Prakash Kanjee was nominated EAC member together with José Fernando Martirena-Hernandez
- **EAC matters**
 - [ROC&TOK webinars series](#) continues to be a successful initiative
 - The platform EPON should be launched by the end of 2023
 - A new collaborative initiative has started with FICEM Academy
 - [Three doctoral courses](#) were offered during the 77th Annual Week in Vancouver.

Bureau

- **Bureau membership**
 - Dr Eshan V. Dave was elected Bureau member, replacing Esperanza Menendez Mendez
 - Ms Joanitta Nabadda Ndawula was elected Bureau member, replacing Wolfram Schmidt
- **Bureau matters**
 - The upcoming major RILEM events (Spring Convention and Annual Week) were presented by their respective organisers:
 - [2024 Spring Convention in Milan, Italy](#)
 - [78th Annual Week in Toulouse, France](#)
 - 2025 Spring Convention in Mendrisio, Switzerland
 - 79th Annual Week in Hanoi, Vietnam.
 - The 2023 RILEM Honorary members and Fellows were announced! Congratulations to these fantastic members! You can read more [here](#)!



Bureau members at work.

General Council

RILEM members have approved the budget and the modification of the membership fees (DAC's proposal) from 2024 onwards:

- Increase by 5% for individual members and 15% for corporate members.
- Decrease from 60% reduction to 90% reduction for all RILEM memberships except Corporate Industrial from [low-income countries](#) to facilitate their participation in RILEM.

To all the past TAC, DAC, EAC and BUREAU officers, a big THANK YOU!

The official **opening of ISSSI2023** was on the morning of Wednesday 6 September. After some welcoming notes by Nemy Banthia, conference Chair, Nicolas Roussel, RILEM President, and Salman Soleimani-Dashtaki, conference Secretary, the session continued with two keynote presentations by:

- Prof. Surendra Shah, Northwestern University, USA
- Prof. Gaurav Sant, University of California, USA, 2023 RILEM Robert L’Hermite medallist, whose presentation is available for free [here!](#)



The speakers of the opening ceremony of ISSSI2023.

Five **special honoree sessions** were organised to celebrate the lifetime research and work of 5 highly distinguished scientists from around the world. The honorees were invited to give a key-note lecture on Thursday 7 September:

- 🔔 Prof. Ravindra Gettu, IIT Madras, India, presenting *Technology implementation as the key impact of research: IIT Madras approach in the past two decades*
- 🔔 Dr Surendra K. Manjrekar, Sunanda Specialty Coatings Pvt. Ltd, India, *presenting Reduction of the carbon footprint (2.3 million kg of CO₂ annually) by arresting major water loss through ageing masonry dam using novel nano grouting – Indian case*
- 🔔 Prof. Changwen Miao, Southeast University, China, presenting *Review on recent progress of concrete technology in China* (Dr Cheng Yu, on behalf of Prof. Miao, presented in Vancouver)
- 🔔 Prof. Takafumi Noguchi, University of Tokyo, Japan, presenting *Great contribution of concrete as white carbon toward carbon neutrality*
- 🔔 Prof. Karen Scrivener, EPFL, Switzerland, presenting *What has electron microscopy contributed to cement and concrete science?*



Enrico Sassoni (on the left), TAC Chair, presenting the 2023 L’Hermite medal certificate to Gaurav Sant.



From the top left, in clockwise direction, the conference honorees: Cheng Yu (on behalf of Changwen Miao), Karen Scrivener, Ravindra Gettu, Takafumi Noguchi, Surendra K. Manjrekar.

Also this year, for the 77th RILEM Annual Week, **RILEM awarded the PhD travel grant** to some PhD students and early-career researchers under the age of 35 and residing in [countries where discounted RILEM fees apply](#). The awardees were:

- ☀️ Karthikeyan Manickam, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India, with the abstract titled "Assessment of galvanic corrosion of prestressed strands in re-grouted, post-tensioned concrete systems"
- ☀️ Keerthi V T, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India, with the abstract "Electrical/electrochemical modelling and experimentation for the performance assessment of concrete-steel-anode (C-S-A) systems"



The RILEM PhD travel grant awardees meet the RILEM Presidency. Images courtesy of D. Ciancio.

- ☀ Hao Yu, Hunan University, China, with the abstract titled "*Optimizing flue gas CO₂ for accelerating the carbonation curing efficiency of cement*"
- ☀ Ajeesh K, Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad, India, with the abstract titled "*Fatigue testing for the validation of fatigue models for SFR*"
- ☀ Rocio Peralta, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina, with the abstract titled "*Final disposal of molecular sieves in cement mortars*".

Congratulations again to all the awardees!!!

The outcomes of 2 RILEM TCs were presented at this event:

- [281-CCC: Carbonation of concrete with supplementary cementitious materials](#), by TC Chair Nele De Belie.
- [279-WMR: Valorisation of Waste and Secondary Materials for Roads](#), by TC Chair Lily Poulikakos.



On the left: Nele De Belie. On the right: Lily Poulikakos.

The delegates were treated with 3 social gatherings:

- ☀ The **conference opening reception**, with top-quality international food offered at the conference venue, i.e. the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Center.
- ☀ The **RILEM Banquet Dinner**, which took place at the Indian restaurant “South Hall Banquet Palace”, with original Indian food and Bollywood and traditional entertainment.
- ☀ The **Cruise Gala Dinner**, where the delegates enjoyed a picturesque sunset while cruising along the Vancouver Harbour and the False Creek.



Some moments of the RILEM Banquet Dinner.

[The next Annual Week, the 78th](#), will take place in the beautiful city of Toulouse, France, in September 2024. The conference organiser, Alexandra Bertron, is promising another fabulous event, with workshops and courses, high-quality technical sessions, and, of course, with exquisite French food and wine.



Some moments of the opening reception.



Some moments of the Cruise Gala Dinner.