

Report of the 2024 RILEM Spring Convention and Conference on advanced construction materials and processes for a carbon neutral society

Milan, Italy, 7-12 April 2024

If you missed the [7th RILEM Spring Convention](#), organized by Prof. Liberato Ferrara and Prof. Giovanni Muciaccia with their team of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Politecnico di Milano, this is what happened!

The first three days (7,8, and 9 April) of the event drifted along through many RILEM Standing Committee and Technical Committee meetings, hosted at Politecnico di Milano.

RILEM Spring Convention @ Politecnico di Milano Piazza Leonardo da Vinci, 32, 20133		RILEM Spring Convention @ Politecnico di Milano Piazza Leonardo da Vinci, 32, 20133	
Monday 08.04.2024			
9:00-11:00	TAC AULA MAGNA (building 1)	DAC SALA DONATORI (building 1)	
11:00-11:30 Morning Coffee Break			
11:30-13:30	TAC AULA MAGNA (building 1)	DAC SALA DONATORI (building 1)	
13:30-14:30 Lunch break			
14:30-16:30	TAC AULA MAGNA (building 1)	DAC AULA MAGNA (building 1)	TC DCS GRANDORI room (building 4)
16:30-17:00 Afternoon Coffee Break			
17:00-19:00	MS BOE AULA MAGNA (building 1)	TC DCS GRANDORI room (building 4)	
Sunday 07.04.2024			
16:00-18:00	EAC GRANDORI room (building 4)		
Tuesday 09.04.2024			
9:00-10:30	DEV SALA DONATORI (building 1)	TC ACP GRANDORI room (building 4)	TC DOC room 087 (building 4)
10:30-11:00 Morning Coffee Break			
11:00-13:00	BUR SALA DONATORI (building 1)	TC ACP GRANDORI room (building 4)	TC DOC room 087 (building 4)
13:00-14:30 Lunch break			
14:30-16:30	BUR SALA DONATORI (building 1)	TC UMW FASSO' room (building 4A-1st floor)	TC IEC GRANDORI room (building 4)
16:30-17:00 Afternoon Coffee Break			
17:00-19:00	BUR SALA DONATORI (building 1)	TC UMW FASSO' room (building 4A-1st floor)	TC IEC GRANDORI room (building 4)

Program of the first 3 days of the 2024 RILEM Spring Convention.

RILEM members will be notified soon about the discussions that took place at TAC, DAC, EAC, DEV, MS BoE, and Bureau; here only some highlights are presented:

TAC

- Prof. Giovanni Plizzari replaced Prof. John Provis as [Materials and Structures](#) Editor-in-Chief.
- Prof. Kei-ichi Imamoto became Cluster C Convener.
- Some TCs were closed and new TCs were approved. You will read more about these TCs soon [here](#).

DAC

- Dr Surender Singh replaced Joanitta Nabadda Ndawula as RILEM Youth Council Chair.



TAC members at work.

- The following regional conveners started their mandate in DAC:
 - For [Middle East & North Africa](#): Prof. Said Kenai, University of Blida, Algeria.
 - For [China](#): Prof. Yamei Zhang, Southeast University, China.

EAC

- Dr Marie Joshua Tapas is a new EAC member.
- Lat-RILEM has a new Presidium planning many webinars and events in Spanish (and English) in the following months.



Bureau members at work.

RILEM officers and TCs' Chairs were treated with an unforgettable dinner with typical Italian food on Monday night, guests of the conference platinum sponsor Penetron Italia. During the event, the President of RILEM, Dr Nicolas Roussel, presented Prof. Marco di Prisco and Prof. Michael Wistuba with the [2023 RILEM fellowship](#) certificates.



Prof. Marco di Prisco, on the left, and Prof. Michael Wistuba, on the right, receiving the 2023 RILEM fellowship certificate by Dr Nicolas Roussel, RILEM President.



The RILEM Presidency and the organisers of the 2024 RILEM Spring Convention during the RILEM dinner. From the left: Dr Nicolas Roussel, RILEM President, Prof. Nele De Belie, RILEM President-Elect, Prof. Liberato Ferrara and Prof. Giovanni Muciaccia, respectively Chair and Co-Chair of the organising committee, Prof. Ravindra Gettu, RILEM outgoing President.

From 10 to 12 April, the *Conference on advanced construction materials and processes for a carbon neutral society* was hosted in the prestigious venue of Palazzo Mezzanotte, the seat of the Italian stock exchange (*Borsa Italiana*). The event developed through 5 keynote lectures,

140 technical contributions, 16 parallel sessions, with 200 delegates from 30 different countries.



The outside (on the left) and the inside (on the right) of Palazzo Mezzanotte, venue of the Conference on advanced construction materials and processes for a carbon neutral society.



From the left: Prof. Giovanni Muciaccia, Dr Agnieszka Bigaj-van Vliet (TNO-Delft) and Prof. José Andrade (Caltech and Energy Vault), keynote speakers of the event, and Prof. Liberato Ferrara.



Dr Rob Wolfs (on the left) receiving the 2024 Gustavo Colonnetti medal by Dr Enrico Sassoni (on the right), RILEM TAC Chair.

The delegates enjoyed the following 5 keynote lectures:

- Prof. José E. Andrade presenting *Enabling the green energy transition through juicier batteries.*
- Dr Agnieszka Bigaj-van Vliet presenting *Navigating the Challenge: Sustainability in Concrete Structures through Synergy of Material and Structural Engineering.*
- Dr Rob Wolfs presenting *The status quo of 3D concrete printing: are we there yet?*
- Prof. Zhenming Li presenting *Autogenous shrinkage of alkali-activated materials.*

- Prof. Marco di Prisco presenting the outcomes of the work of the RILEM TC [288-IEC Impact and Explosion](#).

The video of the last three presentations will soon be available on the RILEM [YouTube channel](#)!



Prof. Marco di Prisco presenting the outcomes of the work of the RILEM TC 288-IEC Impact and Explosion.



Some moments of the Conference on advanced construction materials and processes for a carbon neutral society.

The gala dinner took place at the Museum of Science and Technology “Leonardo da Vinci”. Before dinner, the delegates enjoyed a free and personalized tour of the museum, which remained open only to the delegates, followed by an exquisite meal served under the catamaran *Ac72*, with which the Italian team *Luna Rossa* reached the final of the 34th America’s cup, in San Francisco, USA, in 2013.



On the left: the delegates enjoying the pre-dinner visit of the Museum of Science and Technology; on the right: Prof. Liberato Ferrara thanking the delegates and the sponsors of the event.

The [next RILEM Spring Convention will take place from Sunday 23 to Friday 28 March 2025](#) at the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), in Mendrisio, Switzerland. It will be organised jointly with the *Conference on durability of building materials and systems in the transportation infrastructure*.