

Report of the EAC-sponsored seminar  
**Aspects of Materials, Architecture, Structures and Gender Equity in Sustainable Urban Development in Africa**

Wednesday, 22 September 2021  
 University of Ghana

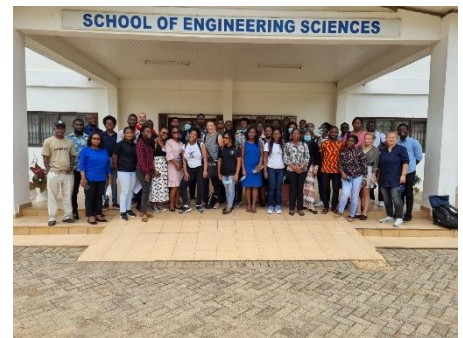
The seminar “Aspects of Materials, Architecture, Structures and Gender Equity in Sustainable Urban Development in Africa” took place on Wednesday, 22. September 2021 at the School of Environmental Sciences of the University of Ghana in Legon, Accra.



Some participants of the event.

The seminar was held in the context of a kick-off meeting of the *Female Academic Leadership Network for Conscious Engineering and Science towards Sustainable Urbanisation* (FALCONESS; [www.falconess.org](http://www.falconess.org)), which aims at strengthening female networks in the area of sustainable urban development in Africa.

Besides the 17 members of the FALCONESS group, there were about 30 postgraduate students from University of Ghana.



Participants and lecturers of the seminar

The seminar started with a welcome by the head of School of Engineering Sciences of the University of Ghana, who hosted the event, followed by an introduction to RILEM and the event by the [RILEM Convenor for sub-Saharan Africa Dr. Wolfram Schmidt](#), before three keynote talks were given:

- *Construction material versus architecture*, by **Prof. Fatma Mohamed** (Architect), University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.
- *Material saving construction strategies*, by **Prof. Simone Stürwald** (Structural designer), Ostschweizerische Fachhochschule, Switzerland.
- *Sustainable materials and concrete solutions with bio-based constituents*, by **Dr. Wolfram Schmidt** (Materials researcher), Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung, Germany.



Working group during the seminar lead by Dr. Wolfram Schmidt, with red shirt on the right.

Then, a group workshop was made with all students, which was chaired and arranged by the sub-Saharan African representative of the [RILEM Youth Council Nonkululeko Radebe](#), *Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, Germany*, in which different paths (long but smooth vs. short but rocky) for a simple problem (like fetching water from a distanced well) were offered for discussion, but each group were given a different combination of daytime and gender. The results highlighted that optimum solutions for “infrastructure and transport” vary depending on multiple parameters. The discussion was very active and nourishing and the feedback from the participants was very positive.



*Nonkululeko Radebe, Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie, Germany, introducing the workshop session.*



*Prof. Simone Stürwald, Ostschweizerische Fachhochschule, Switzerland, giving the second talk of the day.*

*In front, Prof. Fatma Mohamed, University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania and Prof. Risikat Dauda, University of Lagos.*



*Social gathering and deserved break after the event.*