



# PhD Symposium on Construction Materials

(Technologies for Low Carbon & Lean Construction)

Organized by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India

and Co-sponsored by RILEM

September 24, 2021



The main objective of this 1-day PhD symposium organized by IIT Madras was to provide a premium forum for the graduating PhD students and recent graduates to showcase their key findings to fellow researchers in similar areas, to facilitate professional networking, to get exposed to the state-of-the-art in construction materials research, and get guidance from renowned experts of their domain. Young researchers from Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, Sri-Lanka, South Africa, South Korea, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe, etc. participated and made this event a grand success. Thirty participants made 3-minute presentations focusing on the significance and key findings from their research in the topics related to the six clusters/themes of RILEM. Each presentation was followed by about 2 minutes of discussion with the moderators of each session. The moderators were Profs. Piyush Chaunsali (IIT Madras), Prakash Nanthagopalan (IIT Bombay), Radhakrishna G. Pillai (IIT Madras), Shashank Bishnoi (IIT Delhi), Surender Singh (IIT Madras), S. Suriya Prakash (IIT Hyderabad) and a team of young researchers (Dr. Deepak Kamde, Dr. Komathi Murugan, Mr. Rohit Prajapati, Mr. Vaishnav Kumar, and Ms. Nilakanmani) from IIT Madras. The highlights of these sessions include comprehensive discussions on the ideas on the low carbon technologies, their implementation, challenges and prospects in the materials research. The two-hour-long mentoring sessions by Prof. Carmen Andrade (CIMNE, Barcelona, Spain), Prof. Liberato Ferrara (Politecnico di Milano, Italy), Prof. Mark Alexander (University of Cape Town, South Africa) and Prof. Ravindra Gettu (IIT Madras, India) received excellent feedback. They shared their experiences and views on how to identify a purpose-driven research topic, pursue quality research, identify/develop underlying scientific principles, and most importantly take the research from lab towards field implementation, which might sometimes take decades of perseverance and hard work. The mentors explained the importance of both basic and applied research and how being bold and participating actively in RILEM can help in moulding our outlook towards research and its implementation. The event closed with the presentations on RILEM and its benefits and RILEM Youth Council (RYC) by Dr. Daniela Ciancio (RILEM Implementation Manager) and Ms. Joanitta Ndawula (RYC Chair), respectively. RILEM South Asia is planning to make it an annual symposium. For further details about RILEM South Asia activities, please contact [rilemsouthasia@gmail.com](mailto:rilemsouthasia@gmail.com).

