

Report of the EAC-sponsored seminar
1st Graduates Symposium on Sustainable Concrete and Structures in Nigeria
28-30 October 2021
University of Lagos, Nigeria

The [1st Graduates Symposium on Sustainable Concrete and Structures in Nigeria](#) took place from Thursday 28 to Saturday 30 October 2021 at Bolude Oyebolu Engineering Centre of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

The symposium was organised by the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und –prüfung (BAM), Germany; it was financially sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and supported by the RILEM [Educational Activities Committee](#) (EAC) and the Society of Cement and Concrete Researchers in Nigeria (SSCRIN).



Participants of the event. Image courtesy of Kolawole Olonade.

There were 35 young scientists that participated actively in the event, mainly from Nigeria but also from South Africa and USA, five of whom were PhD candidates, 15 MSc Students, while the rest were final year undergraduate students. In addition, six senior members were also in attendance to deliver invited paper in addition to the keynotes presentations:

- *“Utilization of waste ashes in concrete as cement supplement: The Nigerian experience”*, by Dr Wasiu Ajagbe, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
- *“Investigation of the influence of cow dung ash as filler and polyethylene terephthalate as bitumen replacement in asphalt concrete”*, by Dr Funmi Alayaki, Fed. Univ. of Agric. Nigeria.
- *“Understanding the CemGem modelling software”*, by Dr Shi Zhenguo, Heideberger Cement, Switzerland.
- *“Selection criteria for superplasticizer to achieve tailored rheology”*, by Dr Wolfram Schmidt, BAM, Germany
- *“Introducing Society of Cement and Concrete Researchers in Nigeria (SSCRIN)”* by Dr Kolawole Olonade, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Daniela Ciancio, RILEM Implementation Manager, and Joanitta Ndawula, Chair of the RILEM Youth Council, the former connected remotely from Italy and the latter from South Africa, had the opportunity to present to the audience, , the [benefits of being a RILEM member](#). The attendants of this event received a 3-year FREE RILEM membership.

Dr. Olonade used the opportunity to introduce the newly registered organization, Society for Cement and Concrete Researchers in Nigeria (SCCRIN). The Society shall serve as platform to continue cooperation among the participants and future potential researchers in cement, concrete and allied materials locally. This is the first of its kind in Nigeria. The Society shall also serve as a medium to promote the activities of RILEM locally.

The after-office hours were filled with some educational and social activities like the visit to the Historic Olumo Rock and to the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library.



A screen shot during of the event with Dr Kolawole Olonade, University of Lagos, Nigeria, holding the microphone.



Participants visiting the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta, Nigeria.



Participants during the visit of the Historic Olumo Rock.

This is the third EAC event this year that took place in the Sub-Saharan Africa, in line with the RILEM goal to increase the participation of researchers from this part of the world and thanks to the effort of Dr Wolfram Schmidt, RILEM Regional Convener for the [Sub-Saharan Africa region](#).