

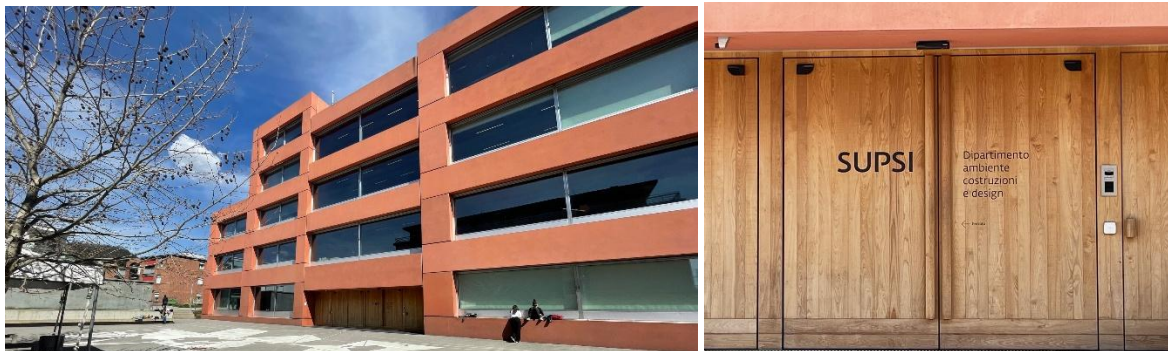
# Report of the 2025 RILEM Spring Convention and Conference on Durability of Infrastructures

Mendrisio, Switzerland, 22-28 March 2025

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If you missed the [8<sup>th</sup> RILEM Spring Convention](#), organized by Prof. Christian Paglia, Head of the Institute of Materials and Constructions with his team of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern (SUPSI), and Dr Roberto Torrent, 2016 RILEM Honorary Member, this is what happened!

The first three days (22, 23, and 24 March) of the event drifted along through many RILEM Standing Committee and Technical Committee meetings, hosted at SUPSI.



*The University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern (SUPSI), the location of the RILEM Spring Convention.*

RILEM members will be notified soon about the discussions that took place at the Board-of-Editors, TAC, DAC, EAC, DEV, and Bureau meetings; here only some highlights are presented.

## Board of Editors (BoE)

- [Materials and Structures](#)

The journal welcomed the following new Associate Editors: Prof. Antonin Fabbri, Dr Augusto Cannone Falchetto, Prof. Céline Perlot, Dr Ellina Bernard, Dr Emmanuel Keita, Dr Gregor J. G. Gluth, Dr Qing-feng Liu, Prof. Rafael Giuliano Pileggi, Dr Roberto Nascimbene and Dr Tommaso D'Antino.

- [RILEM Technical Letters](#)

The journal has a new Editor-in-Chief: welcome to Dr Mateus Wyrzykowski!

## Technical Activities Committee (TAC)

The following Technical Committees (TCs) have terminated their work:

- [291-AMC Use of Agro-Based Materials as Cementitious Additions in Concrete and Cement-Based Materials](#)
- [288-IEC Impact and Explosion](#)
- [289-DCM Long-term durability of structural concretes in marine exposure conditions.](#)

Three new RILEM TCs were approved, but you will read more about this in the following weeks.

## Development Advisory Committee (DAC)

Three new Regional Conveners were welcomed:

- Prof. Kolawole A. Olonade, University of Lagos, Nigeria, for the Sub-Saharan Africa region
- Dr Daniela Martinez Lopez, Universidad del Norte, Colombia, for the Latin America region
- Dr Taehwan Kim, UNSM Sydney, Australia, for the Pacific region.

A proposal to increase the number of RILEM activities taking place in Africa was approved. Stay tuned as you will soon learn more details about it!

## Educational Activities Committee (EAC)

The mandate of many EAC members will end in September this year. The new officers will be nominated at the [2025 RILEM Annual Week](#).

All EAC initiatives, like the ROC&TOK webinars and the Peer-to-Peer webinars to mention a few, continue to be very successful.

These first three days also hosted the meetings of the following RILEM TCs:

- [297-DOC Degradation of organic coating materials and its relation to concrete durability](#)
- [317-ACP Active Control of Properties of Fresh and Hardening Cementitious Materials](#)
- [312-PHC Performance testing of hydraulic cements](#)
- [CUC Carbon dioxide uptake by concrete during and after service life](#)
- [311-MBC Magnesia-based binders in concrete](#)
- [CSA Calcium sulfoaluminate-based cement and concrete.](#)



*On the left: a snapshot of the Board of Editors meeting of Materials and Structures (from the left: Prof. Giovanni Plizzari, Dr Luiza Miranda, Nathalie Jacobs, and Dr Arnaud Perrot). On the right a captured moment from the DAC meeting (from the left: Aurelie Martingale, Judith Hardy, and Dr Wolfram Schmidt).*



*A snapshot of the RILEM Bureau meeting. From the left: Prof. Kei Ichi Imamoto, Prof. Sylvia Kessler, Prof. Giovanni Plizzari, Prof Eshan Dave, and Prof. Enrico Sassoni.*

RILEM Standing Committee officers and TC Chairs and Deputy Chairs were treated with an unforgettable dinner at the Luini Restaurant at [LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura](#), in Lugano, Switzerland.

From 25 to 28 March, the *Conference on Durability of Infrastructures* was hosted at the beautiful Hotel Coronado, in Mendrisio. Delegates from 30 different nations attended this event, which featured 145 presentations in total. The event developed through 19 keynote lectures, 4 parallel sessions per day, and a poster session.



From the left: Dr Nicolas Roussel, RILEM outgoing President, Prof. Christian Paglia, conference Chair, Prof. Nele De Belie, RILEM President, and Prof. Hans Beushausen, RILEM Vice-President.



The opening session of the Conference on Durability of Infrastructures. © 2025 SUPSI.

Amongst the many interesting keynote lectures, the award session of the 2025 RILEM G. Colonnetti medals deserves a special attention:

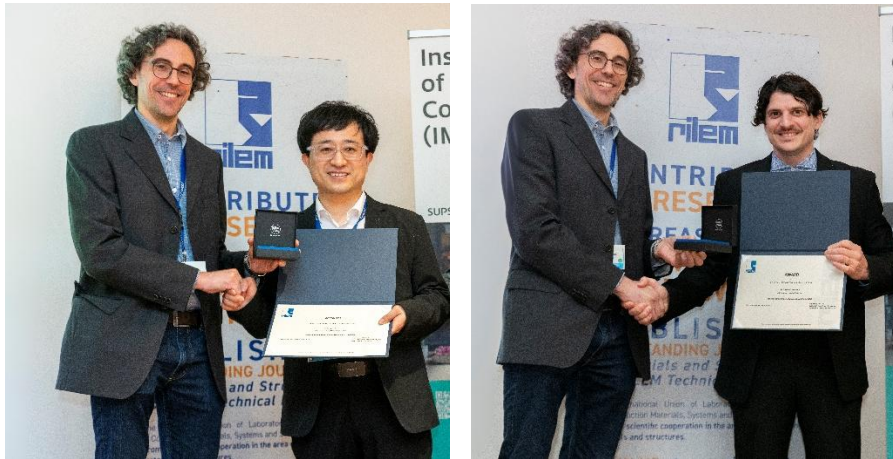
- *Rheology Control of Cementitious Materials*, by [Dr Dengwu Jiao](#).
- *Advancements on serviceability and sustainability of cement-based materials and structures*, by [Dr Fragkoulis Kanavaris](#),

together with the presentations of the TCs that have recently terminated their work:

- Outputs of the TC [290-IMC Durability of Inorganic Matrix Composites used for Strengthening of Masonry Constructions](#), by TC member Dr Bahman Ghiassi on behalf of TC Chair Prof. Antonietta Aiello
- Outputs of the TC [277-LHS Specifications for testing and evaluation of lime-based repair materials for historic Structures](#), by TC Chair Prof. Ioanna Papayanni.



The videos of these presentations will soon be available on the RILEM [YouTube channel](#).



On the left: Prof. Enrico Sassoni, TAC Chair, presenting the 2025 RILEM G. Colonnetti medal to Dr Dengwu Jiao; on the right, Dr Enrico Sassoni presenting the 2025 RILEM G. Colonnetti medal to Dr Fragkoulis Kanavaris. © 2025 SUPSI.

Related to the activities of RILEM and worth a special mention are the following presentations:

- *Decarbonation pathways for cement and concrete*, by Prof. Karen Scrivener, awarded the SUPSI Institute of Materials and Constructions award 2025 by Martina Hirayama, Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research, and Innovation



Starting from the left: Prof. Christian Paglia, Chair of the conference, Prof. Karen Scrivener, 2025 special award winner, and Dr Roberto Torrent, conference Co-Chair. © 2025 SUPSI.

- *Augmented infrastructure condition diagnosis – from bridges to cathedrals*, by Prof. Ueli Angst and Prof. Robert Flatt, who invited the delegates to experience the human-computer interaction devices at the coffee breaks.



Delegates experiencing the human-computer interaction devices of the keynote presentation “Augmented infrastructure condition diagnosis – from bridges to cathedrals”.

- Last but not least the presentation by Dr Wolfram Schmidt, DAC Chair, about [GLOBE](#), the Global Consensus on Sustainability in the Built Environment. This is just one of many initiatives that RILEM is implementing and supporting to encourage the decarbonisation of the construction sector. On this matter, the proposals made at the last RILEM Strategic Workshop *Imagine - RILEM and Climate change* were discussed at the Standing Committee meetings in Mendrisio and will soon be implemented. The conference organisers also planned a “green” event, by utilising the following practices: bagdes, flyers, banners and posters made of recycled paper; no plastic bottles; vegetarian menu at the conference lunches; use of QR codes and digital information instead of printed documents.



*Dr Wolfram Schmidt, RILEM DAC Chair, presenting GLOBE.*

The gala dinner took place at the Hotel Coronado . On the last day, the delegates enjoyed two technical visits: 1) Biaschina viaduct – Gotthard tunnel – Bellinzona UNESCO Castel, and 2) Verzasca Dam – Sanctuary of the Madonna del Sasso (founded in 1487).



*On the left: the RILEM desk with the RILEM/Springer publications. On the right: a moment during the poster session.*



*The local organising committee members receiving flowers during the gala dinner in recognition of their hard work.*



*Verzasca Dam, offered as a technical visit to the conference delegates on the last day of the event.*

The [next RILEM Spring Convention will take place on 13-17 April 2026](#) at Ghent University, Belgium. It will be organised jointly with the *Conference on Innovative Construction Materials and Processes for Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure*.