



REUNION INTERNATIONALE DES LABORATOIRES ET EXPERTS DES MATERIAUX,
SYSTEMES DE CONSTRUCTION ET OUVRAGES

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LABORATORIES AND EXPERTS IN CONSTRUCTION
MATERIALS, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES

Open Letter to the CHINA National Group of RILEM – from the RILEM President

Dear Presidium and Members of the China National Group of RILEM

On Sunday 03 August 2014, we celebrated the launch of the China National Group of RILEM. The event took place at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Hong Kong.

As President of RILEM, I had the honour and privilege to be present in person and to join with you all on this historic occasion. I write this letter from RILEM in acknowledgement that indeed this event marks a milestone in RILEM's development and in its strategy to make its expertise and services available worldwide.

I think the launch event was truly a great success. It was greatly helped by the pre-launch meeting organised in October 2013 in Nanjing by Prof Miao, where more than 100 Chinese delegates assembled to discuss and plan the formal launch of RILEM China.

At the launch meeting on 03 August 2014, there were honourable guests, a few of whom I wish to mention - with the danger that some will not be mentioned, and I hope that they will forgive me in this case: From China: Prof MIAO Changwen, Prof LI Zongjin, Prof LEUNG Chris; also Prof HU Shu Guang, Prof YAO Yan, Prof GU Xiang Lin, Prof XU Shi Lang, and Prof LIU Jia Ping; RILEM Members from outside China: two Honorary Members, Prof Hans Reinhardt of Germany, and Prof Suru Shah of USA, and the RILEM President, Prof Mark Alexander of South Africa. There were about 50 delegates present, and some active and helpful students.

Prof Miao presided over the meeting very efficiently, and I wish to thank him and his team for their excellent organisation and handling of the event, which included a dinner on the evening of Saturday 02 August at HKUST, and a lunch on 03 August after the formal event.

In addition to those whom I have thanked above, I wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Prof Geert de Schutter in helping to bring the CHINA National Group of RILEM into existence, through many trips to China and discussions held over many years with key people in China who have an interest in RILEM. It was a pity that Prof de Schutter could not be present at the launch event.

Finally, let me stress that we remain willing to assist RILEM China in whatever ways are needed to help it to grow and flourish, for example by making international RILEM experts available, considering the formation of new Technical Committees, sponsoring the on-going educational course of RILEM, and so on.

Congratulations once again on the formation of the CHINA National Group of RILEM.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Alexander", with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Mark Alexander (Prof)

RILEM President, 05 August 2014