Second International RILEM Workshop on Microbial Impact on Building Materials

Preface

The aim of the TC 183-MIB is to encourage the collaboration of researchers in different fields, such as engineering, chemistry, geology, and microbiology, working on the microbial impact on building materials.

Approaching the researchers was only the first step because it is not possible to conduct a profound study of several building materials together, which do not have the same microstructure and have different mechanical, mineralogical, and chemical characteristics.

The challenge should continue after the TC 183-MIB work is concluded by the end of 2004 when specific committees, one for each building material, will be proposed to RILEM. The purpose is to proceed by encouraging experts of different fields to collaborate in finding ways to avoid and/or interrupt the biodeterioration of building materials.

After the First International Workshop held in São Paulo in July 2000 and the International Conference, which took place in Lisbon last year, the TC 183-MIB organised its event, the Second International RILEM Workshop on the Microbial Impact on Building Materials.

Techniques used in the study of biodeterioration of building materials and the prevention and remediation against biodeterioration of building materials are two introductory lectures presented by two recognized international experts from Germany, Prof. Wolfgang Krumbein and Dr. Thomas Warscheid, respectively.

The subjects of the papers presented include: a brief review on biodeterioration of concrete, the aesthetic biodeterioration of mortar from a current concrete, the action of lichens on bridges, microbial effects on rock decay, cleaning of concrete with the aid of *Thiobacilli*, and evaluation on biocides to control the action of microorganisms on historical monuments.

The organisers hope that these proceedings can help researchers and practitioners to study and avoid the biodeterioration of building materials.

They are deeply grateful to the keynote lecturers and authors for their excellent contributions, to the Scientific Committee for analysing the papers, to all those who helped in the organisation of the event and to the inestimable financial support of the sponsors.

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Chair of the IIWMIB