

PIANC 125th Anniversary Celebration in Asia was a big success

Celebration event

For the 125th anniversary of PIANC, the Organising Committee, chaired by the Director-General of the Port and Harbour Bureau, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Mr. **Hayashida**, hosted a celebration event in the Asian region on September 12-14, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The Westin Nagoya Castle hotel and the Nagoya Harbour Hall of the Nagoya Port Authority served as the venues for this event.

About 700 participants, including about 80 persons from 41 different countries, attended the celebration. The event was honoured by the attendance of **His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince**. Other distinguished guests were, among others, Mr. **Van den Eede** (President of PIANC), Mr. **Van Schel** (Secretary-General of PIANC), Mr. **Caude** (Chairperson of MarCom), Mr. **White** (Chairperson of InCom), Mr. **Köthe** (Chairperson of EnviCom), Mr. **Maehara** (Minister of MLIT), Mr. **Shinohara** (Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)), Mr. **Kanda** (Governor of the Aich Prefecture), Mr. **Katagiri** (Vice-Governor of the Aich Prefecture), Mr. **Kawamura** (Mayor of Nagoya City), Mr. **Hidaka** (Chairperson of the Aich Prefectural Assembly), Mr. **Yokoi** (Chairperson of the Nagoya City Assembly) and Mr. **Takahashi** (Vice-Chairperson of the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce).

The opening speech was delivered by the Minister of MLIT, followed by addresses of the PIANC President, the Governor the Aich Prefecture and the Mayor of Nagoya. Finally, the Crown Prince delivered a speech in which he admired PIANC's long-term contributions to the development of waterborne transport in the world and he congratulated PIANC on its 125th anniversary. He also recalled his lecture 'The Thames as Highway', given during the Congress in Osaka in 1990 and his participation in the World Water Forum in 2008, held in Istanbul, Turkey. After that, the President of PIANC gave a special lecture to commemorate the event. Mr. **Hayashida**, the Chairperson of the Organising Committee, announced the 'Nagoya Declaration'. Finally, the celebration event was closed by the Vice-Minister of MAFF.



The celebration ceremony and address by HH The Crown Prince

International Seminars

Two international seminars were held on the first and second day of the event. The themes of the seminars were: International Seminar I, 'Coastal and Inland Waterborne Transport and Regional Development' and International Seminar II, 'Dredging and Environment'.



Participants of the seminars

Presenters and coordinator of Seminar I

Social Events

Besides the technical programme, the following social events took place:

(4) Welcome reception

A welcome reception took place at a banquet hall of The Westin Nagoya Castle on September 12, sponsored by the Organising Committee, where the participants could enjoy music and dance performances.



Welcome reception

Dance and drum performances of youngsters of Nagoya

(2) Aquarium dinner

A dinner was held by the Nagoya Port Authority at its aquarium on September 13. The participants witnessed a dolphin show right before the start of the dinner, which took place in front of a large water tank of the aquarium.



Address by the PIANC President

Dolphin show

(3) Port Cruise and Nagoya Castle and Toyota Museum Observation Tour

On September 14, a port cruise took place on a large commercial ferry boat for observing facilities of the Nagoya Port. The participants were able to experience a performance by traditional Japanese music instruments, known as the 'Koto', as well as to try on the traditional Japanese attire, such as the 'Kimono' and try their hand at catching goldfish. Lunch was also provided. Participants, particularly those from abroad, enjoyed this traditional Japanese cultural event very much.

Originally, the Nagoya Castle was constructed about 400 years ago by Tokugawa Shogun Nate and is one of Japan's most historically important buildings. The participants were able to learn what a traditional Japanese style castle is. The observation programme included a visit to the Toyota Museum, where vintage cars fabricated by Toyota are exhibited. The participants learned about the history and technology of Toyota Motor.



The participants wearing a 'Kimono' together with the mascot of the Nagoya Port



The participants scooping up goldfish with their hands

(4) Farewell Dinner

On the last day of the event, a farewell dinner was provided at the Tokugawa Art Museum. In this museum, historical goods and paintings produced about 450 years ago during the Tokugawa Shogun Nate period, which lasted about 300 years, are on display. The participants were fascinated and admired the 450-year old historical goods. During the farewell party, some Nagoya youngsters wearing old armour of the Tokugawa Shogun Nate did a performance of 'Samurai' to entertain the participants.



The entrance of the Tokugawa Museum



The Nagoya City Mayor addressing the audience surrounded by 'Samurai' warriors

Closing Remarks

The PIANC 125th Anniversary Celebration Event in Asia lasted four days and was graced by the attendance of HIH the Crown Prince and distinguished guests from abroad, as well as from Japan. Thanks to the support of PIANC Headquarters and the presenters of the seminars and other staff involved, the event has been a great success. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everybody who attended the event.

Through this success, we are confident that we will be able to contribute in the future to enhance PIANC's activities, not only in Asia, but also throughout the world.

Tadahiko Yagyu
Secretary of PIANC Japan