SMART RIVERS 2025
An International Celebration of Large Navigable Rivers

Memphis, Tennessee, USA | September 2025

- Find out about Planning Committee volunteer opportunities
- Discover technical sharing and networking opportunities
- Share challenges of managing large rivers: MR&T Centennial
- Visit and explore beautiful Memphis, Tennessee!
Smart Rivers

Previous Events

Previous Events and Dates

- 2007 September 16-19, Louisville, KY
- 2011 September 13-16, New Orleans, LA
- 2013 September 23-27, Maastricht/Liege Belgium
- 2015 September 7-11, Buenos Aries
- 2017 September 18-21, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2022 October 18-22, Nanjing, China
  - https://www.pianc.org/pianc-smart-rivers-conferences
Smart Rivers 2025 Conference

- Agreement signed at PIANC America
- Dr. Sandra Knight, Chair
- Memphis, Tennessee in September 2025

Mr. Francisco Esteban Lefler and Dr. Joe Manous

L-R: Mr. Francisco Esteban Lefler; Dr. Joe Manous; Dr. Sandra Knight; Col. Brian Sawser, USACE Memphis District
Memphis District

- District Boundary Includes Portions of Six States
- 600 Miles of Navigation Channels
- 1000+ Miles of Federal Levees
- 10 Inland Ports and Harbors
- Lower Mississippi Channel Improvement Lead
- Center for Water Sustainability
- Partnerships with Federal, State, and Local Governments; 92 Levee, Drainage, Irrigation Districts; and non-Governmental Organizations
- **Navigation; Flood Risk Mitigation; Environmental Sustainability, Ecosystem Restoration; Emergency Response**
VALUE TO THE NATION

- The Mississippi River Basin or Watershed drains 41% of continental United States.

- The basin produces 92% of the nation's agricultural exports, 78% of the world's exports in feed grains and soybeans, and most of the livestock and pork produced nationally.

- The Port of South Louisiana is one of the largest volume ports in the United States, representing 500 million tons of shipped goods per year.

- The Mississippi River and its floodplain are home to a diverse population of living things, including more than 260 species of fish (25% of all fish species in North America)
Mississippi River & Tributaries Project

Great Flood of 1927
- 27,000 Square Miles Inundated
- 700,000 People Impacted
- 500 Deaths
- Economic Damages = $1 Billion

Flood Control Act of 1928 & Subsequent Acts
Signed on May 15, 1928
(13 Months After the First Levee Breach)
Comprehensive Navigation & Flood Control Project

- Levees and Floodwalls
- Floodways and Backwater Areas
- Channel Improvement and Stabilization Features
- Tributary Basin Improvements (Subsequent Acts)

$16 Billion Federal Invested:
$2 Trillion Flood Damages Prevented
Benefit to Cost = $117 : $1
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