



PIANC
The World Association for Waterborne
Transport Infrastructure

Sailing Ahead

JANUARY 2024

Dear PIANC colleague, dear friend,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you started 2024 in a good way!

Due to some IT security issues, we are sending you this newsletter with a little delay, we apologise for the inconvenience.

The PIANC Commissions have only just kicked off the year during their yearly winter meetings. You will find an overview of these meetings in this issue of 'Sailing Ahead'.

Of course, our main focus in 2024 will be on our 35th World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa!

[Registration](#) is still open, we invite you to take advantage of the early bird fee, which applies until 29 March 2024.

We are pleased to inform you that the MarCom WG 211 report on 'PIANC Fender Guidelines 2023' is nearly ready for publication! The document will update one of the most widely distributed PIANC reports and will set the state-of-the-art for fenders in the future.

Moreover, InCom WG 241 has also finished its report on 'Crisis Management of Accidents in Navigation Hydraulic Structures'. This report will also be published soon, so stay tuned!

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in Cape Town in April!

Enjoy reading 'Sailing Ahead'!

GEERT VAN CAPPELLEN
Secretary-General of PIANC

SAVE THE DATE!

IADC and PIANC will organise a one-day conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 18 October 2024.

Don't miss this opportunity to know more about 'Integrating Dredging in Sustainable Development', which will bring essential knowledge for planners, designers, decision makers, regulators, contractors, project owners and environmental advocates.

Check out <https://www.vietnamconference2024.com/> and stay tuned for more information in the coming months!



NEWS FROM THE PIANC WINTER MEETINGS

The yearly PIANC winter meetings took place at PIANC Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium from 30 January to 1 February 2024. Many of the PIANC Commissions had an in-person (or hybrid) meeting and the ExCom also met on 30 January and 1 February, with everyone attending, most of them in Brussels and some of the ExCom members following online.



The ExCom delegates during the ExCom meeting on 30 January & 1 February 2024

L-R: Egbert van der Wal (MarCom), Geert Van Cappellen (Secretary-General), Sebastian Iglesias (YP-Com), Ian White (FinCom), Chiara Minoretti (ProCom), Abbas Sarmad (CoCom), Francisco Esteban Lefler (President), Mitsuhiro Okada (Vice-President), Burton Suedel (EnviCom), Calvin Creech (Vice-President) and Esteban Biondi (RecCom)

Besides the ExCom, the members from MarCom, EnviCom, RecCom, ProCom and YP-Com also got together for their yearly winter meeting. FinCom had its yearly winter meeting a few days before. Mrs Minoretti and Mrs Weltens from ProCom also visited the InCom meeting in order to exchange ideas on how ProCom can be of assistance for the Commissions and vice versa, how Commissions can put forward good ideas to ProCom to enhance the visibility of the Commissions' Working Groups.

NEWS FROM INCOM

INCOM MEETING IN BRUSSELS

The 97th meeting of the Inland Navigation Commission (InCom) was held in hybrid format, in Brussels, at PIANC's headquarters. The InCom members discussed the status of Working Groups, along with proposals for future ones.

The Working Group chairs and members presented the progress of their WG's on IW infrastructure to facilitate tourism, extended values of 'low-use' inland waterways, permanent floating houses, navigability of free-flowing rivers, and IW container transportation.

New topics that were discussed, amongst others, were guidelines for the design of river ports on natural rivers, application of Digital Twin technology, innovative construction methods of IW hydraulic structures, structural static verification of existing hydraulic structures.



During the traditional lunch of all Commissions, PIANC President Francisco Esteban Lefler wholeheartedly thanked Fabrice Daly, who will retire in a few months, for his many years of dedication to PIANC as a member of PIANC InCom, co-author of a number of Working Group reports, Secretary of PIANC France, as well as for his great efforts and commitment in the organisation of many PIANC events, especially PIANC Smart Rivers in Lyon in 2019 and the PIANC Mediterranean Days in Sète in 2023.

The next meeting of InCom is planned during the PIANC World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

Jasna Muskatirovic
Secretary of InCom

INCOM WG 249 KICKS OFF IN BRUSSELS

On 9 January 2024, PIANC WG 249 with the envisaged title 'Adaptation of Inland Waterways Infrastructure for Climate Change Impacts' successfully kicked off. The members coming from all over Europe, USA and Asia gathered in Brussels and online. The day began with a quick round of introductions, followed by a fruitful discussion on the Terms of Reference and scope of work. Relevant conversations were held on the definition of infrastructure, data availability and uncertainties.



Throughout the day, ideas and topics to be addressed were exchanged, and the enthusiasm grew. We are confident that the group of people have the knowledge and expertise to make a success of our assignment and to deliver a good report. We look forward to this collaboration!

Rolien van der Mark
PIANC InCom WG 249

NEWS FROM MARCOM

MARCOM MEETING IN BRUSSELS



PIANC MarCom kicked off with its first meeting of the year in Brussels on 30 January 2024. The MarCom members also welcomed Mr Ian Golabek, who succeeds Mrs Noelia González Patiño as Secretary of the Commission!

It was a productive meeting with great contributions from the members attending both in-person and online.

The next MarCom meeting will be held in Cape Town, South Africa during the PIANC World Congress.

Ian Golabek
Secretary of MarCom

NEWS FROM PROCOM

PROCOM MEETING 2024-1 IN BRUSSELS

The first ProCom meeting of the year took place in Brussels during the PIANC winter meeting week. Eighteen members joined the meeting, with six participants who made it to Brussels and the others tuning in via Teams from all over the globe!



This meeting was also Chiara Minoretti's first meeting as ProCom's Chair ad interim! As expected, she managed perfectly to take over from Mrs Pahl, who left PIANC a few months ago.

The ProCom subgroups all gave an overview of their current activities and next steps and ProCom discussed the promotion opportunities of PIANC during the upcoming PIANC World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. Furthermore, some new food for thought was brought to the table, turning this meeting yet again into another fruitful exchange of ideas!

Leen Weltens
Secretary of ProCom

NEWS FROM THE PIANC COMMUNITY

Some of our National Sections have news to share on their past and upcoming activities. Please click on the country logo for some local news from our PIANC National Sections!



PIANC SPAIN



PIANC UK



PIANC USA

PIANC-ASIA PACIFIC (APAC) CONFERENCE 2024 - CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS



PIANC
APAC
2024

3RD PIANC ASIA PACIFIC
CONFERENCE

27-30 AUGUST 2024

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

www.piancapac.com

Connecting Asia Pacific ports in a changing world

The Local Organising Committee is delighted to invite you to participate in the 3rd Biennial PIANC APAC Conference, scheduled for 27-30 August 2024 at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth Hotel. Building on the success of our previous gatherings, this conference serves as a vital forum for professionals in the fields of ports and maritime within the Asia Pacific region.

In a world where change is constant, the landscape is evolving at a remarkable pace. The theme of Connecting Asia Pacific Ports in a Changing World captures the essence of our commitment to strengthening regional and global connectivity and collaboration in the dynamic port industry.

We invite you to submit Extended Abstracts, sharing your research, insights and practical experiences related to the conference themes. Extended abstracts should explore innovative solutions, sustainable practices, and novel approaches to address the evolving challenges and opportunities in the ports and maritime sector, with a particular consideration of achieving sustainable and resilient outcomes. Your contributions will shape discussions and solutions that pave the way for the future of ports and maritime.

We welcome papers from our Asia Pacific colleagues and will strive for diversity, equity and inclusion when finalising the conference program.

We look forward to your active participation in making PIANC APAC 2024 a resounding success and a milestone event in the PIANC A&NZ calendar.

Find out all there is to know about this conference at <https://piancapac.com/abstracts/>.

PUBLICATIONS

JUST SHIPPED

The following publication was released in December 2023:

- PIANC WG 216 (InCom): ['Best Practices in Planning and Management of Multimodal Logistics Platforms Along Inland Waterways'](#)



[Click here to find our latest publications!](#)

COMING UP SOON:

The following publication will be released in February 2024:

- PIANC WG 241 (InCom): 'Crisis Management of Accidents in Navigation Hydraulic Structures'
- PIANC WG 211 (MarCom): 'PIANC Fender Guidelines 2023'

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