



PIANC

The World Association for Waterborne
Transport Infrastructure

Sailing Ahead

NOVEMBER 2024

Dear PIANC Friends and Colleagues,

Our new offices are currently holding our regular PIANC activities, such as Working Group meetings, and we are prepared for the winter meetings.

The PIANC-Smart Rivers 2025 Conference abstract submission deadline has been extended to the end of January. Do not let this opportunity pass you by to submit your paper for the World Forum on Inland Navigation!

The 8th Session of the UN ESCAP Committee of Transport held in Bangkok, with Dr. Gensheng Zhao representing PIANC, and the Danube Ports Days 2024 are all covered in this issue.

PIANC board vacancies for 2025 are announced. PIANC is seeking a position that is truly crucial in the Permanent Task Group on Climate Change, specifically for the Task Force on Transport System Resilience, which has recently started. The challenge is to collaborate with associations representing different transport modes to exchange experiences on climate change preparedness. COVID-19 and other extreme events indicate that a multimodal approach to resilience is more efficient than specific modal initiatives.

The Young Professionals are sharing information about their past experiences and the forthcoming Biennial Technical Visit 2025 in Busan.

As usual, there is news from our National Sections, about forthcoming publications and Working Group Vacancies. Keep a close eye on them!

Stay connected with PIANC!

FRANCISCO ESTEBAN LEFLER
President of PIANC

PIANC-SMART RIVERS CONFERENCE IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - 8-12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Extension deadline to submit your abstract for the PIANC-Smart Rivers 2025 Conference!

This edition will celebrate industry innovations, best design principles, and sustainable and resilient solutions, while also shining a light on the history, culture and communities that have shaped the success of our inland waterway systems.

[Abstract submission](#) has been extended to **31 January 2025!**
Registration opens on **1 December 2024!**

More information on PIANC-Smart Rivers 2025 can be found in this [Conference Brochure](#). Also, should you be interested in becoming a sponsor at this event, please download the [Sponsorship Brochure!](#)

Read all about the event on the Conference website at <https://smartrivers2025.com/>.



NEWS FROM THE PIANC COMMISSIONS

NEWS FROM MARCOM

Productive Days in Barcelona with PIANC WG 250!

On 7-8 November, members of PIANC's WG 250 gathered at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) for a productive start on updating the WG 28 report. The group were delighted to have 14 team members joining in person and 6 more connecting online, bringing together a global mix of expertise in hybrid sessions.

The time together sparked engaging technical discussions that made real progress while opening new, challenging topics for further exploration. The two days concluded with an insightful visit to the Port of Barcelona's South Breakwater - a laterally composite structure with two rubble mound sections topped by wave walls flanking a caisson breakwater central section.

Thank you to the team members providing their time over these two days and a special shout-out to Mr Jose Luis Monso de Prat and Miguel Vázquez Romero for organising the venue and tour - your support made this gathering possible!

WG 250 is truly a team effort, and we're excited for what's next!



MarCom Kick-Off Meeting WG 252 at PIANC HQ in Brussels, Belgium



Recently, members of PIANC WG 252 gathered for a hybrid online and in-person kick-off meeting to begin the process of developing the paper on 'Safety By Design for Maritime Infrastructure Projects'.

The WG membership spans across the globe, so it was a great effort to get 9 members in the room and 3 online for this initial meeting.

The new PIANC offices in Brussels were utilised and impressed all members with the space and effectiveness of the meeting room for the hybrid style meeting.

There was excellent collaboration, and the group successfully established the common themes and alignment on the topic, resulting in a draft Table of Contents at the end of day 1, and some work towards the first key chapter being completed on a shorter day 2. The paper is intended to be a document that will assist any reader understand how they can apply the best practice principals of 'Safety by Design specific to the Maritime Infrastructure Industry', whether they be a designer, a construction contractor, an equipment supplier, or an asset owner among other things. There is much work to be done, and the WG is scheduled to complete the draft of the paper across the next 24 months.

Aidan Lewis
Chair of WG 252

NEWS FROM INCOM

Prof. Dr. Ir. Gensheng Zhao Invited to Attend the 8th Session of the UN ESCAP Committee on Transport

From 5 to 7 November, the 8th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Committee on Transport was held in Bangkok, Thailand. National delegations from 34 member countries, representatives from 3 permanent observers, the Holy See as a UN observer, 9 international intergovernmental organizations, and 9 non-governmental organisations gathered to discuss the future of transportation in the Asia-Pacific region.



Prof. dr. ir. Gensheng Zhao, PIANC InCom Member, was invited to attend as a representative of PIANC, delivering a thematic address on advancing sustainable inland waterway transport and green navigation infrastructure.

In his address, Prof. Zhao emphasised the pivotal role of low-carbon, water-resource-friendly navigation infrastructure in mitigating climate change and supporting economic growth. He highlighted the importance of integrating decarbonisation strategies, improving efficiency, and adapting waterways to climate impacts as fundamental measures to achieve sustainable development. Citing the technical expertise of organisations like PIANC, where global collaboration fosters innovative solutions, he underscored the need for enhanced partnerships to deliver eco-friendly waterway projects across the Asia-Pacific region.

Prof. Zhao proposed formalising partnerships between ESCAP and technical organisations through frameworks like Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). Such partnerships, he explained, would enable continuous knowledge exchange and provide the foundation for implementing green navigation infrastructure. His vision for cooperation was well-received, garnering attention from participating delegations and experts for its actionable approach to aligning regional goals with global sustainability standards.



On 7 November, Prof. Zhao also delivered a keynote speech at the UN side event, 'Advancing Sustainable Port Networks in Asia and the Pacific'. He elaborated on specific strategies for building green port networks and discussed the integration of climate-resilient practices in port operations. During the session, he engaged with key figures such as Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. Weimin Ren, Director of the Transport Division of ESCAP, and representatives from various national delegations.

The committee meeting also reviewed progress on the 'Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026)' and set new goals for developing low-carbon and resilient transport networks. Prof. Zhao's contributions, combining technical expertise with strategic foresight, highlighted his commitment to advancing sustainable waterway infrastructure while showcasing innovative solutions that bridge global and regional aspirations.



Gensheng Zhao
PIANC InCom

Danube Ports Days 2024

PIANC InCom Vice-Chair, Mrs Jasna Muskatirovic, attended the Danube Ports Days 2024: Navigating Towards Sustainable Multimodality, organised on 29-30 October by Pro Danube and hosted by the Danube Commission. The event was supported by the EU-funded projects MultiRELOAD, Green Inland Ports Study and SYNERGETICS and the Danube Ports Network successfully concluded. It brought together policy makers, industry leaders and experts to discuss and evaluate innovative solutions aimed at achieving climate

neutrality within inland ports in particular, and inland waterway transport (IWT) in general.

The event focused on critical themes including the modal shift to eco-friendly transportation, emission insights, and green energy solutions. It showcased cutting-edge digitalisation tools and strategies that are transforming port operations across Europe. More details on the event can be found at <https://www.prodanube.eu/inforoom/events>.

Jasna Muskatirovic
Vice-Chair of PIANC InCom

NEWS FROM THE PERMANENT TASK GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE (PTG CC)

CALL FOR REPRESENTATIVE FOR TASK FORCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM RESILIENCE

An amazing opportunity has arisen for a PIANC member interested in climate resilience of transport systems!

In November 2023, at a PIANC Argentina symposium in Buenos Aires, PIANC's Permanent Task Group on Climate Change (PTG CC) ran an initial session bringing together some of the international transport associations to exchange experiences on climate change preparedness at mode and system level. Over the course of 2024, this initiative has evolved into a **Task Force Transport System Resilience**.



PIANC is now seeking a new member to represent PIANC on this Task Force. It is anticipated that there will be three to four online Task Force meetings, typically lasting around ninety minutes. The new PIANC representative will be expected to attend these meetings, as well as those of PIANC's PTG CC.

This position is open to applications from PIANC Individual Members or employees of PIANC Corporate Members. Nominations need to be presented through the PIANC website like it is the case for standard WG-members and supported by the National Section or Qualifying Member.

We encourage you to submit a two-page CV, along with a 200-word explanation of why you are interested in this position by end December 2024. The submitted CVs will be reviewed by EnviCom and PTG CC members, and the candidate who brings the most appropriate experience will be selected.

For our more information on this vacancy, please click [here](#) for the call for candidates.

NEWS FROM YP-COM

PAST PIANC YP-EVENTS - RETROSPECT

ASIA PACIFIC: YP Networking Event at New Zealand Coastal Society Conference

As part of the New Zealand Coastal Society (NZCS) 2024 Conference held in Christchurch New Zealand, between 20 and 23 October, PIANC New Zealand sponsored the Young Professional Networking event. This was a great opportunity for collaboration between the two organisations which support the coastal and maritime community. Thanks to NZCS for allowing us to be part of the proceedings. Was a great night of networking, tasty food and craft beers!



AMERICAS: YP Technical Visit at the Gran Rosario Port Complex

On 7-8 November, the annual Technical Visit of the AADIP Young Professionals Group, PIANC International's National Section in Argentina, took place at the Gran Rosario port complex. The event featured technical talks, a river tour, and visits to key agro-export terminals, aimed at expanding knowledge of Argentine port activities, raising awareness of the importance of navigation and related infrastructure, and fostering professional connections.

With a full programme that included technical talks by leading port professionals, a navigation on the Paraná River and tours of two of the most important agro-export terminals of the complex (ACA Timbúes and T6), the event brought together a large number of young people interested in expanding their knowledge of the port activity of the Argentine coast, becoming aware of the importance of navigation and the associated infrastructure in our country and, at the same time, generating new professional links.

For a full report on the visit and some nice pictures, please click [here](#).

UPCOMING PIANC YP-EVENTS IN 2025 - PREVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAVE THE DATE! - BIENNIAL TECHNICAL VISIT 2025 IN BUSAN

We are happy to announce that the 10th edition of our signature event will take place on 14-16 May 2025 in South Korea!

Taking place at the vibrant Port of Busan overlapping the AGA, this event is not only giving Young Professionals to get exciting insights to the industry but also to network with other YPs and the representatives of PIANCs National Sections from all over the world.

Since this event is free of charge for every YP, we are thankful for the support of our hosts PIANC Korea and the Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries as well as our Sponsors! The Organising Committee is looking forward to open the registration in November so please spread the word and stay tuned to further announcements via the Newsletter/Mail or on our [LinkedIn page!](#)

Anja Brüning
Secretary of YP-Com

VACANT POSITIONS ON THE PIANC BOARD

CALL FOR PIANC VICE-PRESIDENT, RECCOM CHAIRPERSON & YP-COM CO-CHAIRPERSON

As some of our board members are ending their mandate, PIANC is searching for a new Vice-President*, a new Chairperson for the Recreational Commission (RecCom), as well as a new Co-Chairperson for YP-Com**, respectively.

As always, we ask all candidates to apply via their National Section/Qualifying Membership or to [contact HQ](#) in case your country doesn't have a National Section/Qualifying Membership.

We welcome your application and ask you to send in your application, as well as a CV to HQ before **31 December 2024**.



** In line with Art. 40 of our Rules & Regulations, this time, all Qualifying Members are entitled to send in candidacies for the new PIANC Vice-President.*

*** The candidate should not have reached the age of 40 years before starting their mandate.*

NEWS FROM THE PIANC COMMUNITY

Some of our National Sections or national divisions have news to share on their past and upcoming activities.

NEWS FROM PIANC AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

- [PIANC AU-NZ Board Gathers for Annual Strategy and Planning Sessions](#)
- [PIANC AU-NZ Mentoring Program - Video Testimony](#)



NEWS FROM PIANC GERMANY

- [Farewell Colloquium of Claus Kunz, BAW \(Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute\)](#)

NEWS FROM PIANC NETHERLANDS

- [Young PIANC Netherlands Hosts Pitching-Style Event in Rotterdam](#)





NEWS FROM PIANC USA

- [Webinar on 'Climate Change Costs to Ports and Waterways' - 18 December 2024](#)

PUBLICATIONS

JUST SHIPPED

The following publication was released in July 2024:

- PTG CC Technical Note No. 2 (FREE publication for both members and non-members!):
['Climate Change Costs to Ports and Waterways: Scoping the Business Case Assessment for Investment in Adaptation'](#)

WEBINAR: Making the Business Case for Investing in Climate Change Adaptation
Save the Date!

In 2024, [PIANC's PTG CC published Technical Note No.2](#) was published. This report, a supplement to PIANC's WG 178 'Guidance on Climate Change Adaptation Planning', focuses on scoping the business case for investment in climate change adaptation and strengthened resilience.

PTG CC is now planning a webinar to introduce and discuss Technical Note No.2 and also to explore the role of the insurance industry in incentivising such investment. Speakers at the webinar will include Jan Brooke, the Chair of PTG CC, and representatives of TT Club, international transport and logistics insurers.



The webinar will be held on 7 or 8 January 2025. Full details are still being finalised, but if you are potentially interested to attend, please email ptgcc@pianc.org with your contact details, and we will make sure information is sent to you as soon as it is available .

Jan Brooke
Chair PTG CC

COMING UP

The following publications will be released in December 2024/January 2025:

- WG 128 (InCom): 'Technical-Biological Bank Protections for Inland Waterways' (3 parts)
- WG 230 (EnviCom): 'Green Financing of Nature-Based Navigation Infrastructure'
- WG 224 (MarCom): 'Planning of Fishing Ports'

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

[Save money and click here to join PIANC and download ALL PIANC publications FOR FREE from the Members Only portal!](#)

APPLY FOR 4 NEW PIANC WORKING GROUPS!

PIANC InCom is looking for your expertise in four newly created WGs! Interested? Submit your candidacy to your National Section or to info@pianc.org in case your country doesn't have a National Section by **15 January 2025**.



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NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

InCom WG 262:
'Remote Operated Inland Waterway Navigation'

Interested in becoming a member of this Working Group?
Contact your National Section or PIANC HQ at info@pianc.org
In case your country doesn't have a National Section.



Download Terms of Reference
<https://bit.ly/4eyRrW1>

www.pianc.org



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NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

InCom WG 263:
'Key Elements and Best Practices to Improve the Governance of Inland Waterways'

Interested in becoming a member of this Working Group?
Contact your National Section or PIANC HQ at info@pianc.org
In case your country doesn't have a National Section.



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NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

InCom WG 264:
'Innovative Digitalisation Approaches for Managing Hydraulic Structures of Inland Waterways'

Interested in becoming a member of this Working Group?
Contact your National Section or PIANC HQ at info@pianc.org
In case your country doesn't have a National Section.



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NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

InCom WG 265:
'Innovative Construction Methods of IW hydraulic structures'

Interested in becoming a member of this Working Group?
Contact your National Section or PIANC HQ at info@pianc.org
In case your country doesn't have a National Section.



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