



PIANC
The World Association for Waterborne
Transport Infrastructure

Sailing Ahead

FEBRUARY 2025

Dear PIANC Friends and Colleagues,

We had the pleasure of welcoming some 130 PIANC-members at our new HQ for the winter meetings of the Commissions and some of our Working Groups. The new HQ was not only a nice new setting, but also allowed access to the most recent meeting facilities. At the end of the meeting week, the formal agreement on the PIANC housing and other support by the Flemish Department of Mobility and Public Works was signed by the Secretary-General, Mr Filip Boelaert, and our PIANC President, Mr Francisco Esteban Lefler. After operating 140 years on a gentlemen's agreement, the new HQ provided the excellent opportunity to formalise this. The rest of February was also a beehive of activities. Most notably were the PIANC Seminar in Malaysia for almost 150 people.

Currently, we have about 62 Working Groups operating on various topics. In addition to this, PIANC is once more looking outward and partnering with key international organisations. As such, the cooperation agreement with the Danube Commission was signed and further actions in this field can be expected in the future. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our upcoming events: our AGA in Busan, our PIANC Mediterranean Days for the very first time in Morocco and the PIANC-Smart Rivers conference in Memphis, Tennessee. I wish you an enjoyable read of the newsletter and hope to see you in one of our events!

GEERT VAN CAPPELLEN
Secretary-General of PIANC

SAVE THE DATE!

PIANC-MEDITERRANEAN DAYS 2025 IN TANGIERS, MOROCCO - 29-30 OCTOBER 2025

The Ministry of Equipment and Water and the Moroccan Association of Port and Maritime Engineering are organising the International PIANC Mediterranean Days (Med Days) in Tangier, Morocco on 29-30 October 2025.

After successful editions in Palermo, Italy (2008), Valencia, Spain (2012), Marseille, France (2013), Seville, Spain (2018) and Sète, France (2023), the Conference now moves to the North African coast of the Mediterranean Sea for the first time!

More information on the PIANC Med Days 2025 can be found at <https://www.pianc.org/pianc-mediterranean-days> or in the [Conference flyer](#).



All conference themes can be found in the Conference flyer. We kindly invite you to submit your abstract by **30 April 2025** to piancmeddays2025@mtpnet.gov.ma.

KEY DATES:

- Deadline of abstract submission: 30 April 2025
- Selection of abstracts and notification of abstract acceptance: 31 May 2025
- Deadline for full paper presentation: 5 September 2025
- Mediterranean Days: 29-30 October 2025

For any questions about the event, please contact [Mrs Naima Hassine](#) or [Mr Mohamed Abid](#).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Tangier on 29-30 October 2025!

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

Registration for PIANC-Smart Rivers 2025 is Open!

PIANC USA is hosting the PIANC-Smart Rivers conference from 8-12 September 2025 in Memphis, Tennessee, USA.



As such, we are excited to announce that registration for PIANC-Smart Rivers 2025 is now **OPEN!** [Register today](#) to join us and engage with global experts to build a vision for a sustainable future of inland waterborne transport.

This premier international conference on inland waterways and sustainable river transport will offer [technical sessions](#), [technical tours](#), [short courses](#), and special networking events. Learn more [here](#).

PIANC members and full-time students are eligible for reduced registration fees. Don't wait! **Early bird rates** are only available until **1 July 2025**. [Register today](#) to take advantage of this limited-time rate reduction.

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



PIANC-COPEDEC XI IN CHENNAI, INDIA - 21-26 FEBRUARY 2027

On 10 December 2024, the Memorandum of Understanding between PIANC Headquarters, the PIANC-COPEDEC XI International Organising Committee and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) was signed on the organisation of the PIANC-COPEDEC XI Conference to be held in Chennai, India in February 2027.

IITM will create a website, linked to the PIANC official website and the IITM official website, before May 2025. IITM and PIANC aim to distribute the first announcement in digital form in May 2025.

NEWS FROM THE PIANC COMMISSIONS

NEWS FROM EXCOM

ExCom 2025-1 in Brussels, Belgium



The ExCom met on 6 and 7 February 2025 in the new PIANC HQ office building in Brussels, Belgium.

On the first day, the meeting discussed the statutory matters and action points, as well as PIANC's finances, Terms of Reference for new Working Groups, the status of ongoing Working Groups and the Commissions' Annual Reports.

The meeting also discussed the publications and sales figures, as well as the social media figures. Finally, the ExCom members had a look at the upcoming international activities.

The ExCom members were also treated to a tasty lunch provided by the catering team of the new office building.



In the morning of 7 February, the ExCom members revised the PIANC Rules & Regulations, after which Secretary-General of the Flemish Department of Mobility and Public Works, Mr Filip Boelaert, joined the meeting to sign the official cooperation agreement with PIANC.

PIANC is delighted to confirm this ongoing and continuing cooperation 140 years after the start of the Association. On to a lot more in fruitful collaboration!



NEWS FROM INCOM

100th meeting of Inland Navigation Commission in Brussels

The Inland Navigation Commission (InCom) held its 100th meeting in Brussels on 4-5 February 2025. On the first day, the host of the meeting was the Port of Brussels, and on the second day, the meeting was held at the new PIANC HQ in Brussels. During these two days over 25 experts from all over the world participated (both in person and online) at the meeting. The progress of different Working Groups was discussed, and proposals for new WG's discussed.

During the visit to the Port of Brussels, InCom members had a chance to visit the port and facilities around the canal. We would like to thank Mr Laurent Mampaey and his colleagues for hosting us.



Jasna Muskatirovic
Vice-Chair & Secretary of InCom

InCom WG 249 Meets in Brussels, Belgium



Last month, InCom Working Group WG 249 ('Adaptation of Inland Waterways Infrastructure for Climate Change Impacts') gathered in Brussels. Great to see that this time again, many members were able to contribute to the discussion! In our meeting, we had a productive dialogue centred around the draft texts of the different chapters.

Key topics included identifying what should be the main focus points of the report, how to add practical considerations (case studies) for the reader, and how to improve readability by adding boxes, tables, links in between the chapters, and so on. The collaborative atmosphere and shared insights made it a fruitful session, setting a clear path forward for further improving our draft report. Thanks PIANC for the delicious, but

in our case rather short lunch! Overall, the meeting was successful in aligning our efforts. Now, back to work!

Nils Huber & Rolien van der Mark
Chairs WG 249

NEWS FROM MARCOM

MarCom Winter Meeting in Brussels, Belgium

The MarCom team had its winter meeting in Brussels (and online) on 4-5 February 2025. They had a fruitful meeting with 17 MarCom members attending in person and 15 members participating online.

In the afternoon on 5 February, the members also paid a technical visit to the Port of Antwerp.



MarCom WG 233 Meets in at Port of Sines in Portugal



On 5-6 February 2025, Porto of Sines, Portugal hosted the meeting of PIANC MarCom Working Group 233 - 'Inspection, Maintenance and Repair of Waterfront Facilities'. The in-person meeting brought together expert members from the United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and Japan. The meeting made the situation point of the report's developments, organised the chapters and prepared the integration of all chapters, with a view to its conclusion.

On the last day, the participants had the opportunity to visit the port of Sines, maritime traffic control and visit the famous West Breakwater, rehabilitated in the eighties, after its destruction in the storms of 1978 and '79.



From left to right: Flávio Pereira, Kenichi Mizuno, Eduardo Moutinho, Henk Voogt, Tom Spencer, Karsten Holste and Daniel O'Connor

Eduardo Manuel Moutinho
WG 233

NEWS FROM COCOM

CoCom Winter Meeting in Brussels, Belgium

The CoCom team had its 108th meeting in Brussels (and online) on 5 February 2025. This pivotal gathering brought together members to deliberate on several crucial agenda items aimed at advancing PIANC's strategic objectives. The meeting was further enriched by the presence of PIANC's President as a special guest, who provided very useful information on some of the Target Countries.



PIANC COPEDEC 2027: A Major Milestone

A key highlight of the meeting was the discussion surrounding the upcoming PIANC-COPEDEC XI, set to take place in Chennai, India, on 21-26 February 2027. The conference theme will be 'Adaptation of Coastal, Port, and Waterway Infrastructure to the Changing Climate'.

The CoCom members discussed the preparatory measures to be undertaken:

- Initiating efforts to secure sponsorships

- Launching the conference website and digital announcements by May 2025
- Setting deadlines for abstract and fellowship applications on 31 December 2025
- Scheduling IOC, PSC, and FAC meetings for March 2026 to ensure smooth planning and execution

Target Countries Review: Strengthening Global Participation

A comprehensive review of PIANC's target countries was conducted. Each CoCom member presented their respective achievements and progress, showcasing efforts to either bolster their national sections or assist them in becoming Qualifying Members. This review served as a critical assessment of PIANC's outreach initiatives and strategic growth.

Updating Roles and Responsibilities

To accommodate the four newly inducted members and further optimise CoCom's impact, a revised structure detailing updated roles and responsibilities was proposed and deliberated. This restructuring aims to enhance operational efficiency and maximise contributions from each member.

Guidelines for Membership Development: A Structured Approach

A four-step guideline was introduced to facilitate membership development, providing a structured roadmap for the transition from a small nucleus to a fully established National Section. After circulating the document for feedback and receiving no objections, it was officially adopted. The new guideline is expected to be an instrumental resource in supporting CoCom members in their efforts to expand PIANC's global footprint.

Enhancing Cooperation with ProCom

A significant step towards strengthening collaboration between CoCom and ProCom was the participation of Leen Weltens and An Van Schel from PIANC HQ in the meeting. They shared valuable resources available in the new Box environment, including upcoming QM-support documents and HQ's plans for social media engagement and a membership development toolkit.

Mohammadreza Allahyar
Co-Chairman of CoCom

NEWS FROM RECCOM

RecCom Winter Meeting in Brussels, Belgium

PIANC RecCom convened in Brussels to discuss ongoing work in Working Groups, upcoming events and trends observed in the recreational navigation infrastructure sector.



This meeting was also the last meeting of our esteemed Chairman, Esteban Biondi, who has led the Commission with unwavering dedication and boundless passion for the recreational navigation sector. Esteban will continue to contribute to the ongoing Working Groups.

Our next physical meeting is scheduled for October, connecting with the ICOMIA World Marinas Conference in Venice. We hope to see you there!

NEWS FROM PROCOM

ProCom Winter Meeting in Brussels, Belgium

With the ProCom team, we met on 5 February 2025 in the new PIANC HQ office building in Brussels. We had 11 ProCom members participating in person and 4 more attending online. A status update was given on the various ProCom subgroups and before noon, a brainstorming session took place to come up with some new ideas for strengthening the connection with our Working Groups and National Sections, as well as to enhance PIANC's visibility worldwide.



In the afternoon, ProCom met up with Ms Anja Brüning, Secretary of YP-Com, to discuss mutual cooperation between the two Commissions. After that, some of the ProCom members paid a visit to the various Commissions that were meeting in Brussels on the same day to listen how ProCom can play a role in helping to enhance the visibility of PIANC's Commissions and Working Groups. It turned out to be a very informative exercise!

NEWS FROM YP-COM

YP-Com Winter Meeting in Brussels, Belgium

Like all the other Commissions, PIANC YP-Com came together at PIANC HQ in Brussels on 5 February. It was a productive and engaging Winter Meeting at PIANC HQ, where we tackled key discussions, including:

- YP-Com Board Meeting
- PIANC YP Com Africa Meeting
- Detailed Planning for the BTV Program
- YP-Com Northern Europe Meeting



With over 20 YP Com members participating both in-person and online, we had insightful conversations and strategic planning for the year ahead. Looking forward to the exciting initiatives ahead for PIANC Young Professionals!

Register for the 9th YP-Com Biennial Technical Visit (BTV)!



Join us in Busan, South Korea, on 14-16 May 2025 for an event filled with exclusive opportunities to visit Korea's largest and busiest port, to network and engage with global peers. BTV registration is FREE for young professionals, but spots are limited!

We warmly invite all PIANC Young Professionals (under 40 years old) from across the seven seas to be part of this exciting experience.

All details and registration are available on the [AGA/BTV website!](#)

For any inquiries, please contact our Organising Chair, Hyun Dong Kim, at hdkim@pianckorea.org.

Don't miss out on this amazing event!

Anja Brüning
Secretary YP-Com

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 is Future-Ready](#)
- [If You Want Something Done, Ask a Busy Person \(i.e. a PIANCer!\)](#)



NEWS FROM PIANC SPAIN

- [ATPYC-ANEN Technical Conference: Trends and Challenges in the Design, Construction, and Management of Marinas](#)

NEWS FROM MALAYSIA

- [PIANC Seminar 2025: A Resounding Success in Westports, Malaysia](#)



PIANC SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THE DANUBE COMMISSION



During the PIANC Joint Commission lunch on 5 February 2025 in Brussels, PIANC Secretary-General Geert Van Cappellen and Danube Commission Director-General Manfred Seitz signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance mutual cooperation between both organisations.

We welcome the Danube Commission as new Sister Association of PIANC!

PUBLICATIONS

JUST SHIPPED

The following publications were released in 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 226 (EnviCom): 'A Guide for Assessing and Managing Effects of Underwater Sounds from Navigation Infrastructure Activities'
- WG 186 (MarCom): 'Mooring of Large Ships at Quay Walls'

COMING UP

The following publications will be released in March/April 2025:

- WG 224 (MarCom): 'Planning of Fishing Ports'
- PIANC Yearbook 2024

[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!

WORKING GROUP VACANCIES

PIANC InCom & EnviCom are looking for members for the following WG's:



PIANC
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NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

InCom WG 266:
**'Capacity Augmentation and Structural Expansion
of Existing IW Facilities'**

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/4k3ia12>

www.pianc.org



PIANC
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Transport Infrastructure

NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

EnviCom WG 267:
**'The Role of Waterborne Transport Infrastructure in
Biodiversity Enhancement'**

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/4kdlevi>

www.pianc.org

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 April 2025.

NEWS FROM OUR PLATINUM PARTNERS

NEWS FROM SHIBATAFENDERTEAM

SFT Offers the First Seminar on PIANC Fender Guidelines 2024 in French-Portuguese Session Coming Soon

As a long-time Platinum Partner of PIANC, ShibataFenderTeam is dedicated to fostering education in the marine industry. Building upon this commitment, we organised the first seminar about the PIANC Fender Guidelines 2024 presented in French.

Over 30 professionals from French-speaking regions (in Europe, Africa and North America) joined us to explore the key insights, and practical implications of the new guidelines. Their participation reaffirmed the industry's need for a local and close approach to the industry stakeholders.

Continuing SFT efforts to make the PIANC Guidelines 2024 accessible to a broader audience, we are proud to announce that we will soon offer this seminar in Portuguese as well. The session will cover key aspects of the new document, ensuring also Portuguese-speaking professionals stay prepared for the evolving standards in fender system design.

Em breve, compartilharemos mais detalhes sobre a data e inscrições. Caso tenha interesse, entre em contato pelo e-mail marketing@sft.group.

ShibataFenderTeam at the 2025 Malaysia PIANC Seminar & Manufacturing Facility Tour

Co-organised between the Port Klang Authority, Westports Berhad, and Spartan Maritime Sdn Bhd, the PIANC Seminar 2025 took place on February 18-19 at Westports, Malaysia, bringing together industry professionals to exchange insights on the latest research and marine developments.

As a long-time PIANC Platinum Partner, we were pleased to contribute as sponsors and speakers. Our colleague, Thore Kollmorgen, presented 'Leveraging engineering and manufacturing for sustainable solutions: The Holistic Approach to Fender Systems', emphasising not only the importance of the Holistic Approach but also the manufacturing process and full supply chain control.

A special moment at the end of the event was the visit of Francisco Esteban Lefler, President, and Geert Van Cappellen, Secretary General of PIANC International, to our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for rubber fenders. Accompanied by senior leaders from Shibata Asia and our parent company, Shibata Industrial, they toured our Malaysian facility, which covers every stage of production - from rubber compounding to testing. Continuously upgraded to enhance manufacturing and testing capabilities, it can perform Performance Testing for all fender sizes, including our largest, the CSS3000 Cell Fender.



The SFT Group extends its gratitude to the organisers for a successful event, as well as to Mr Lefler and Mr Van Cappellen for their visit and valuable discussions. As the global

leading fender manufacturer, we remain committed to supporting PIANC's mission of leveraging fender industry standards.

Empar Dolz González
ShibataFenderTeam Spain

NEWS FROM TRELLEBORG MARINE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Trelleborg Marine & Infrastructure at the 2025 Malaysia PIANC Seminar

We were honoured to sponsor the 2025 Malaysia PIANC Seminar and Site Visit, held on 18-19 February at Westports Bhd's Auditorium Hall. Supported by the Port Klang Authority and co-organised by Westports Bhd, Spartan Maritime Sdn Bhd, KASI, and DHI Water & Environment (M) Sdn Bhd, this event brought together maritime experts to discuss key topics such as port development, sustainability, climate resilience, decarbonisation, digitalisation, and environmental stewardship.

During the seminar, Jason Png from Trelleborg delivered an insightful presentation on Trelleborg's extensive range of solutions for the marine and infrastructure sectors, including gas transfer solutions, marine fenders, and sealing systems for critical infrastructure. He showcased two of our latest innovations in marine fenders: the Trelleborg Rubber Fender QR Code System, which enhances fender traceability and streamlines maintenance processes, and the Trelleborg Information Gateway (TIG), a digital platform that provides users with access to information on Trelleborg fenders installed on-site, maintenance reminders, and detailed fender drawings and specifications.

These solutions demonstrate our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the maritime industry and driving innovation for smarter ports.

Alexandra Yang
Marketing Executive Trelleborg Marine and Infrastructure

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