



PIANC
The World Association for Waterborne
Transport Infrastructure

Sailing Ahead

FEBRUARY 2026

February has been a dynamic and productive month for PIANC, marked by collaboration, progress, and a look forward across our global community.

Last month, we were pleased to convene the PIANC Winter Meetings, bringing together our Commissions, several active Working Groups, and the Executive Committee (ExCom). These meetings provided a valuable opportunity to review ongoing initiatives, align on strategic priorities, and reinforce the strong cooperation that drives PIANC's technical excellence worldwide.

Several Working Groups report significant progress in their respective fields in this newsletter. We are grateful for the continued engagement of all experts contributing their time and knowledge.

We are pleased to announce the release of a new PIANC publication: PIANC WG 215 (MarCom): 'Accidental Impacts from Ships on Fixed Structures: Design Considerations'. EnviCom WG 227 on 'A Guide for a Risk-Based Approach to Environmental Windows for Dredging and Navigation Infrastructure Works' is almost ready for publication.

We are also launching a call for candidates to join new and ongoing Working Groups and we warmly invite interested members to apply.



<https://www.pianchull2026.org/>

Finally, preparations are nearly complete for the Annual General Assembly in Hull, United Kingdom.

We look forward to welcoming members from around the world for what promises to be an engaging and inspiring gathering. If you have not yet registered, now is the time - secure your place and join us in Hull:

<https://www.pianchull2026.org.>

Enjoy reading 'Sailing Ahead'!

JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING PIANC EVENTS!

NordPIANC 2026



PIANC Estonia warmly welcomes Nordic members of PIANC to Tallinn, the medieval capital of Estonia, on 9-11 September 2026. Further details will be shared in due course.



PIANC APAC 2026

The 4th Biennial PIANC APAC Conference will be held on 25-27 August 2026 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, located in Brisbane's vibrant South Bank cultural precinct.

The theme for the 2026 Conference is **Connecting and Sharing - Oceania and Asia-Pacific Neighbours**.

We invite you to submit Extended Abstracts presenting research, technical innovation, case studies, best practice and real-world applications across all areas of port, harbour and maritime infrastructure before **27 March 2026** via

<https://piancapac.com/abstracts/>.

VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE



Download the [First Announcement](#)

VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE

NEWS FROM THE PIANC WINTER MEETINGS

News from ExCom

First ExCom Meeting of the Year in Brussels, Belgium

On 5 February 2026, the PIANC Executive Committee (ExCom) met in Brussels to address its regular statutory matters and review key strategic topics. The Committee received an update on the progress of ongoing Working Groups and approved new Terms of Reference, discussed upcoming PIANC events, and announced the winner of the PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award 2026.



The meeting also concluded with the final revision of PIANC's Rules & Regulations, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to strong governance and future-oriented development.

News from MarCom

First MarCom Meeting of the Year in Brussels, Belgium



MarCom held their first meeting of 2026, face to face in Brussels, Belgium on 3-4 February 2026. As well as the usual actions and reviews of Working Group progress, we were presented with two presentations. These were on the work of WG 164 - 'Upgrade of Ports by Deepening Dredged Depth', and on WG 225 - 'Seismic Design Guidelines', which are nearing completion for publication later this year.

MarCom WG 215 - 'Accidental Impacts from Ships on Fixed Structures' was published this month. This is a comprehensive guideline for assessing and mitigating vessel allisions with bridges, piers, quay walls, dams, lock approach walls, and other fixed infrastructure across ports and inland waterways.



PIANC Africa Webinar #003:
MarCom WG 224: Planning of Fishing Ports

DATE 22 January 2026, of 14h30 to 18h00 SAST / UTC+2

Join PIANC Africa for a focused webinar on the updated guidance for planning and upgrading fishing harbours. **Martin Mannion**, Chair of PIANC WG 224, will unpack practical recommendations. The session will also feature a technical panel discussion with **Capt. Abikoye Azeet**, Chairman, INMOWTSSA Fishing Zonal Council, Nigeria) and **Ing. Stephen Yaboah Amplaw** (General Manager, Fishing Harbours, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority), who will ground the guidance in West African operational realities.

Speakers:

- Touqeer Ahmed**, Head, Engineering, Centre of Excellence, TPAK
- Martin Mannion**, Port Consultant/Agent, Mannion Marine Limited
- Abikoye Azeet**, Chair, INMOWTSSA Fishing Zonal Council, Nigeria
- Stephen Y Amplaw**, General Manager, Fishing Harbours, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/4Uicbm>

Furthermore, [Martin Mannion](#) spoke on MarCom WG 224 - 'Planning of Fishing Ports' at the 3rd PIANC Africa webinar.

[Michael Grace](#) presented on the same report at the 7th Blue Ports Initiative workshop, for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations on 10 February 2026.

Michael Grace
 MarCom

News from InCom

First InCom Meeting of the Year in Brussels, Belgium

On 3 February 2026, I had the pleasure of hosting PIANC InCom for a technical visit – a great opportunity to exchange insights on how De Vlaamse Waterweg nv is shaping the waterways of tomorrow.

The InCom members explored the Vlaamse Waterweg's roadmap towards smarter operations, data driven traffic management, and a resilient waterway network supported by major investments and digital innovation.

As part of the programme, the delegation was guided through two key sites in Hasselt:

- the East Region RCC Hasselt, our modern remote control centre that plays a crucial role in the centralisation and future ready management of locks and bridges
- the hydroelectric powerplant in Hasselt, an impressive example of multifunctional infrastructure where waterway management and sustainable energy generation come together

Proud to share our expertise – and even prouder to welcome international colleagues as we work together towards a future proof inland navigation system. My distinguished compliments towards my PR colleague Ben Nauwelaers for his major support.

Stefan Devocht
InCom



Following the tremendous visit in Hasselt hosted by De Vlaamse Waterweg and a nice evening in the centre of Brussels, InCom had a fruitful meeting at PIANC HQ on 4 February, with 15 participants on site and 7 attending remotely. We had the pleasure to welcome 2 new members from Mexico: Jorge Perez & Jesus Gonzalez.

Several members were invited to present the status of their Working Groups (WG):

- Rolien Van der Mark and Nils Huber for WG 249 - 'Adaptation if IW for Climate Change Impacts'

- Andreas Panenka for WG 255 - 'Structural Re-Assessment of Existing IW Hydraulic Structures'

To follow the tradition to discover each member's national navigation management, Ruper Henn and Katja Rettemeier presented the German inland waterways (IW). New IW topics were also debated for potential future terms of reference, based, among others, on the very interesting presentation by Annemarie Seiffert about the inspection and maintenance processes applied in BAW.



After the InCom meeting, the Technical Commission Chairs and Working Group Mentors were gathered by PIANC HQ to discuss about their important role to facilitate the success of Working Groups.

Last but not least, after more than a decade as InCom Secretary, Jasna Muskatirovic passed on the torch to [Catherine Swartenbroekx](#). Thank you very much, Jasna, for your strong involvement in InCom!



[Catherine Swartenbroekx](#)
Secretary of InCom

First EnviCom Meeting of the Year in Brussels, Belgium



The members of PIANC EnviCom had their first meeting of the year in Brussels, Belgium on 3-4 February 2026.

Many EnviCom members attended yet another fruitful meeting.

News from ProCom

First ProCom Meeting of the Year in Brussels, Belgium



On 4 February 2026, PIANC ProCom met to review the activities of its various subgroups, with particular emphasis on membership development and enhanced support to National Sections. The Committee exchanged ideas on new promotional initiatives to further strengthen PIANC's visibility and engagement, and discussed the development of a corporate video in close cooperation with CoCom to better showcase the organisation's mission and global impact.

The ProCom members also welcomed new member [Arnold de Bruijn](#), who will replace René Kolman, who has recently retired.

News from CoCom

First CoCom Meeting of the Year in Brussels, Belgium

The Cooperation Commission (CoCom) held a hybrid meeting in Brussels on 4 February 2026. The session covered several key agenda items, including updates on PIANC-COPEDEC XI 2027, engagement with target countries, and areas for future improvement.

The following items were discussed during the meeting:

- PIANC-COPEDEC XI in 2027
- Target Countries Review: Strengthening Global Participation
- Training and Education Committee
- Enhancing Cooperation with ProCom

Read more about this meeting...

Mohammadreza Allahyar
Co-Chairman of CoCom

Visit the Brand-New PIANC Africa YouTube Channel

Africa is at a crossroads. From the digitalisation of Ports & Inland waterways, and upgrading of Port Infrastructure, to the massive potential of Green Fuels Hubs, the engineering challenges we face require more than just localised effort – they require global consensus.

That is why we (PIANC Africa) have officially launched the PIANC Africa YouTube Channel.

We aren't just uploading videos; we are building a 'Digital Quay Wall' where speakers such as:

- Piet Creemers breaks down the future of River Information Services (RIS)
- Martin Manion shares the 2025 updates on Fishing Port design
- Local African Leaders such as Abidemi Ibrahim Famuyiwa, Stephen Ampiaiw, Captain Akinloye Azeez and Captain Lanre Badmus share the "on-the-ground" reality of African port operations



Connect to our channel, and subscribe at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ixq3rR6WivVfZMTiQkzjg>.

Let's move beyond 'ideating in isolation' and start building our African Infrastructure.

NEWS FROM THE PIANC WORKING GROUPS



MarCom WG 233 - Meeting in Portugal



InCom WG 255 - Meeting in Belgium



InCom WG 265 - Meeting in Belgium



InCom WG 267 - Kick-Off Meeting in Belgium

TUNE IN TO THE FOLLOWING PIANC WEBINARS



**PIANC Africa Webinar #004:
Sustainable Navigation Management of Natural Rivers - PIANC WG 236**

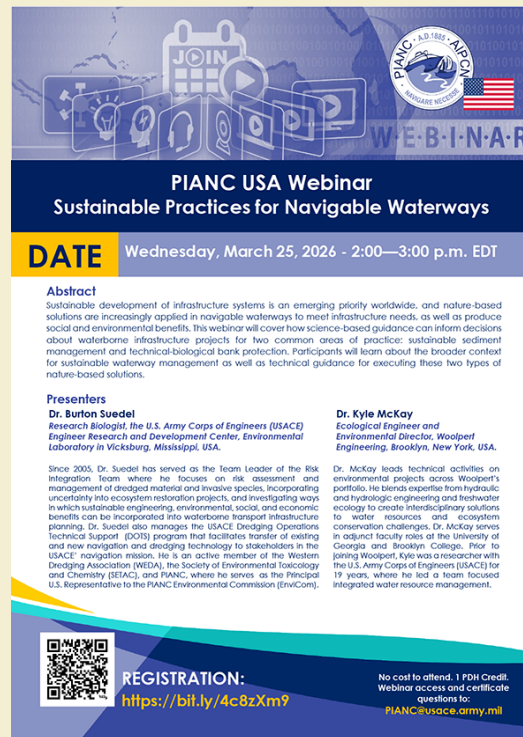
DATE 19 March 2026 at 16h30 to 18h00 SAST / UTC+2

Join PIANC Africa for a focused webinar on sustainable navigation of natural rivers. **Dr. Calvin Creech**, PE, PhD—Vice President of PIANC and senior civil engineer with the US Army Corps of Engineers—will unpack guidance from PIANC WG 236. The session will feature a moderated discussion and Q&A to translate the framework into actionable steps for African river corridors, from adaptive channel management and dynamic charting to sediment strategies and Working with Nature.

Host: **Tauqeer Ahmed**
Head of Engineering Centre of Excellence, TNPA

Presenter: **Calvin Creech**
Vice President, PIANC, US Army Corps of Engineers

REGISTRATION LINK:
<https://bit.ly/4aV01Qk>



**PIANC USA Webinar
Sustainable Practices for Navigable Waterways**

DATE Wednesday, March 25, 2026 - 2:00—3:00 p.m. EDT

Abstract
Sustainable development of infrastructure systems is an emerging priority worldwide, and nature-based solutions are increasingly applied in navigable waterways to meet infrastructure needs, as well as produce social and environmental benefits. This webinar will cover how science-based guidance can inform decisions about waterborne infrastructure projects for two common areas of practice: sustainable sediment management and technical-biological bank protection. Participants will learn about the broader context for sustainable waterway management as well as technical guidance for executing these two types of nature-based solutions.

Presenters

Dr. Burton Suedel
Research Biologist, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory in Vicksburg, Mississippi, USA.

Dr. Kyle McKay
Ecological Engineer and Environmental Director, Woolpert Engineering, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

Since 2005, Dr. Suedel has served as the Team Leader of the Risk Integration Team where he focuses on risk assessment and management of dredged material and invasive species, incorporating uncertainty into ecosystem restoration projects, and investigating ways in which sustainable engineering, environmental, social, and economic benefits can be incorporated into waterborne transport infrastructure planning. Dr. Suedel also manages the USACE Dredging Operations Technical Support (DOTS) program that facilitates transfer of existing and new navigation and dredging technology to stakeholders in the USACE navigation mission. He is an active member of the Western Dredging Association (WDA), the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), and PIANC, where he serves as the Principal U.S. Representative to the PIANC Environmental Commission (EnvCom).

Dr. McKay leads technical activities on environmental projects across Woolpert's portfolio. He blends expertise from hydrologic and hydraulic engineering and freshwater ecology to create interdisciplinary solutions to water resources and ecosystem conservation challenges. Dr. McKay serves in adjunct faculty roles at the University of Georgia and Brooklyn College. Prior to joining Woolpert, Kyle was a researcher with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for 19 years, where he led a team focused on integrated water resource management.

REGISTRATION:
<https://bit.ly/4c8zXm9>

No cost to attend. 1 PDH Credit. Webinar access and certificate questions to: PIANC@usace.army.mil

Report on the 3rd PIANC Africa Webinar on PIANC WG 224 - 'Fishing Ports'

PIANC Africa's third webinar brought the newly updated WG 224 - 'Planning of Fishing Ports' to life, translating a comprehensive global guideline into practical actions for African contexts. Hosted and moderated by [Tauqeer Ahmed](#) (Head Engineering Centre of Excellence, TNPA), the session featured a deep dive presentation by [Martin Mannion](#) (Chair of PIANC WG 224) and a grounded panel response from Ing. [Stephen Y. Ampiauw](#) (Ghana) and Capt. Akinloye Azeez (Nigeria).

The recording is available here: https://youtu.be/08d7cZ_py58.

[READ MORE ON THIS WEBINAR](#)

[Tauqeer Ahmed](#)
CoCom

PIANC ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

PIANC at MARLOG 15: Advancing Resilient and Optimised Logistic Corridors

From 8 to 10 February 2026, PIANC participated in the 15th International Maritime Transport and Logistics Conference (MARLOG 15) in Alexandria, Egypt, in the context of its continued role as Scientific Partner – building on its longstanding cooperation with the MARLOG series including MARLOG 14 in 2015 and prior years.

PIANC was represented at the conference by Dr. [Babak Bani-Jamali](#), Vice-Chair of the Maritime Navigation Commission (MarCom), who chaired a high-level plenary session entitled 'Resilient and Optimised Logistic Corridors'. The session addressed strategic, technical, and institutional approaches to strengthening transport corridors in the face of operational, environmental, and geopolitical challenges.



[READ MORE ON MARLOG 15](#)

[Babak Bani-Jamali](#)
Vice-Chair of PIANC MarCom

PUBLICATIONS

Just Shipped

The following publication was published in [February 2026](#):



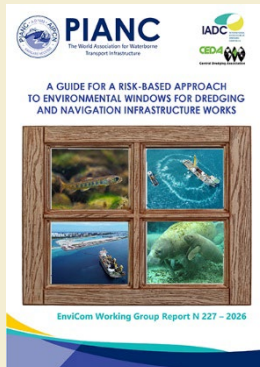
PIANC WG 215 (MarCom): 'Accidental Impacts from Ships on Fixed Structures: Design Considerations'

[FREE DOWNLOAD PIANC MEMBER](#)

[PURCHASE YOUR COPY IN THE WEBSHOP](#)

Upcoming Publications

The following publication will be published in March 2026:



- PIANC WG 227 (EnviCom): 'A Guide for a Risk-Based Approach to Environmental Windows for Dredging and Navigation Infrastructure Works'

Apply for These New PIANC Working Groups:

2 New InCom PIANC Working Groups will be set up. Submit your candidacy before 15 April 2026 to your National Section or to info@pianc.org in case your country doesn't have a National Section!

This advertisement features the PIANC logo and the text 'NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY'. It announces 'InCom WG 270: 'Strategies to Prevent Negative Effects of External Threats In IW Infrastructure and Facilities''. Below the title, it asks if the reader is interested in becoming a member and provides contact information: 'Contact your National Section or PIANC HQ at info@pianc.org in case your country doesn't have a National Section.' A QR code is on the left, and a link to download terms of reference is at the bottom left: <https://bit.ly/4k3ia12>. The website www.pianc.org is at the bottom right.This advertisement features the PIANC logo and the text 'NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY'. It announces 'InCom WG 271: 'IW Guidelines for Navigation Availability Assessment''. Below the title, it asks if the reader is interested in becoming a member and provides contact information: 'Contact your National Section or PIANC HQ at info@pianc.org in case your country doesn't have a National Section.' A QR code is on the left, and a link to download terms of reference is at the bottom left: <https://bit.ly/4k3ia12>. The website www.pianc.org is at the bottom right.

THE SAILING COMPASS



Planning meetings across different time zones can be tricky, but the World Clock Meeting Planner on timeanddate.com makes it easier! Simply pick a date and enter the locations of your participants to see a

colour-coded timetable of their local times – helping you spot the best overlap for everyone’s schedules.

The tool automatically accounts for day-light saving time and lets you share or export meeting details once you have chosen a suitable time. It’s a handy way to coordinate calls, virtual meetings or events with colleagues and partners around the globe!

PIANC's Platinum Partners are:



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