



PIANC
The World Association for Waterborne
Transport Infrastructure

Sailing Ahead

MARCH 2026

This March edition of 'Sailing Ahead' brings you a snapshot of upcoming opportunities and recent developments.

Preparations are in full swing for major events including NordPIANC 2026, PIANC APAC 2026, and PIANC-COPEDEC 2027.

We are also excited about the first edition of the North Sea Conference & AGA 2026, taking place this May in Hull, UK – be sure to [register](#) and join colleagues from around the world.



This issue also features an update from Working Group 250, alongside highlights from several National Sections showcasing their recent activities. We look back at past PIANC webinars and share news on recent and upcoming publications, including the launch of a refreshed Yearbook format in May 2026.

Finally, we invite you to get involved by applying to join two PIANC Working Groups – an excellent opportunity to collaborate internationally and contribute to the future of our sector. We hope you enjoy this edition and continue sailing ahead with us.

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

4TH PIANC AU-NZ BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
FOCUSING ON OCEANIA AND OUR
ASIA-PACIFIC NEIGHBOURS
25 - 27 AUGUST 2026, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA
www.piancapac.com

Connecting and Sharing - Oceania and Asia-Pacific Neighbours

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**.

[VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE](#)

Download the [First Announcement](#)

[VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE](#)



NEWS FROM THE PIANC WORKING GROUPS



3rd In-Person WG 250 Meeting in Rotterdam

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



[Two Young Leaders Step Up!](#)

NEWS FROM PIANC BRAZIL NEWS FROM PIANC JAPAN



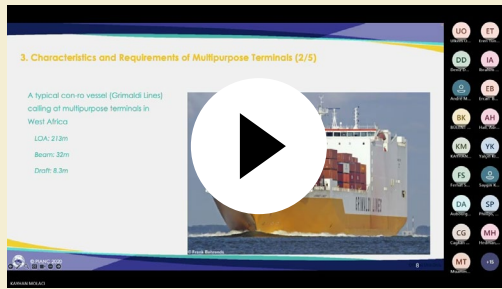
[Report on the First PIANC Brazil Seminar](#)



[Report on PIANC's Commissions & Working Groups Members Meeting](#)

PIANC WEBINARS

Report on the Webinar on PIANC WG 213 - 'Design and Operation of Multipurpose Terminals'



With a coastline stretching over 5,000 miles across the Black, Aegean, and Mediterranean seas, the Turkish maritime sector is rapidly evolving. To support this growth – and as part of our journey to becoming a Qualified Member of PIANC – we recently hosted a webinar on a highly requested topic: the Design and Operation of Multipurpose Terminals (PIANC WG 213).

Mr Andre Merrien delivered an information-packed, easy-to-follow masterclass. The engagement was so strong that our Q&A session ran just as long as the presentation!

Stay tuned – we are already planning our next session before summer arrives.

Kayhan Molaci

Report on the PIANC USA Webinar on 'Sustainable Practices for Navigable Waterways'

PIANC USA (PIANC.US) hosted the first of four webinars for 2026, entitled 'Sustainable Practices for Navigable Waterways'. Over 150 attendees received free professional development credit from the 1-hour webinar presented by Dr. Burton Suedel, Research Biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center and Dr. Kyle McKay, Ecological Engineer and Environmental Director, Woolpert Engineering. Drs Suedel and McKay presented existing 'engineering with nature' projects as well as how science-based guidance can inform decisions about waterborne infrastructure projects related to sustainable sediment management and technical-biological bank protection.

In particular, they shared the three extensive design and implementation guidance documents from PIANC Working Group 128. These publications include a library of methods, global case studies, and guidance for thinking through the design process. 'Working with Nature' is an international initiative of PIANC to promote a proactive, integrated approach to sustainable navigation infrastructure projects. More information may be found at <https://www.pianc.org/working-with-nature/>.

Watch for the next free PIANC USA webinar entitled 'Design of Navigation Locks - Overview of the State of the Practice', to be held Summer 2026 to be posted at [PIANC.US](https://www.pianc.org) or email PIANC@usace.army.mil.

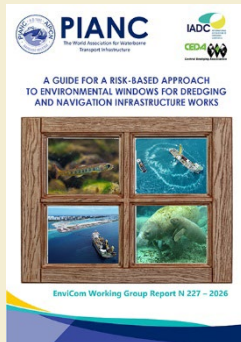
Helen Brohl

PIANC USA

PUBLICATIONS

Just Shipped

The following publication was published in March 2026:



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

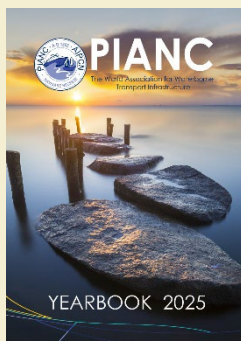
FREE DOWNLOAD PIANC MEMBER

PURCHASE YOUR COPY IN THE WEBSHOP

Following a very successful 6th edition of the PIANC Mediterranean Days, held in Tangier, Morocco on 29-30 October 2025, we are pleased to inform you that the presentations and full papers of the event have been compiled and are now available for download [HERE](#).



Upcoming Publications



The PIANC Yearbook 2025 will be issued in May 2026 and will have a brand-new look & feel!

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!



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NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

InCom WG 270:
'Strategies to Prevent Negative Effects of External Threats In IW Infrastructure and 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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NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY

InCom WG 271:
'IW Guidelines for Navigation Availability Assessment'

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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ON THE CALENDAR

World Canals Conference 2026

This year's World Canals Conference will be in Guilin, Guangxi, China, on 12-16 October 2026, with the theme: 'Innovation and Preservation: A Crucial Choice'. Sessions will focus on ancient canals as part of modern community life, living in harmony with nature, and the balance between tourism and conservation. Conference sessions and tours will cover three millenia, ranging from the 2,200-year-old Lingqu Canal near Guilin City, the world's first canal to connect two major river basins, to China's newest inland waterway. The 134 km Pinglu Canal, scheduled to open this fall, will connect the Xi River system with the Beibu Gulf, utilising three modern lock complexes to carry 5,000-tonne vessels over the 65 metre difference in elevation. Conference participants will also travel by boat through dramatic scenery along the River Li.

Information about WCC2026, registration, travel arrangements, and the call for papers at <https://wcc2026guilin.com>.

Duncan Hay

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