



**PIANC**  
The World Association for Professional  
Transport Infrastructure

# Sailing Ahead

## MAY 2026

It's a wrap! The very first edition of the [PIANC North Sea Conference](#), together with the PIANC Annual General Assembly 2026, took place in Hull, UK, from 11-13 May 2026. A heartfelt thank you to PIANC UK for delivering an excellent programme and for being such outstanding hosts throughout the event.

The PIANC AGA also featured a special milestone moment: the premiere of the very first PIANC corporate video:



Beyond the conference, PIANC continues to move full speed ahead. Several new Working Group reports will soon be released, while our ongoing Working Groups are actively progressing their important work.

Be sure to save the date for our upcoming events, and don't miss the opportunity to apply for the [PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award](#) and the [PIANC Working with Nature Award!](#)

# JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING PIANC EVENTS!

**PIANC APAC 2026**  
**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**  
**25-27 AUGUST 2026**

**NORDPIANC 2026**  
**TALLINN, ESTONIA**  
**9-11 SEPTEMBER 2026**

**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](http://www.piancapac.com)



**Early bird rates close on 5 June  
2026!!!**

**REGISTER HERE**

**VISIT THE WEBSITE**

**Registration is open!**

**REGISTER HERE**

**VISIT THE WEBSITE**

**PIANC AMERICAS 2026**  
**RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL**  
**25-29 OCTOBER 2026**

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



Interested in becoming a sponsor of this  
unique event?

**DOWNLOAD THE SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS**

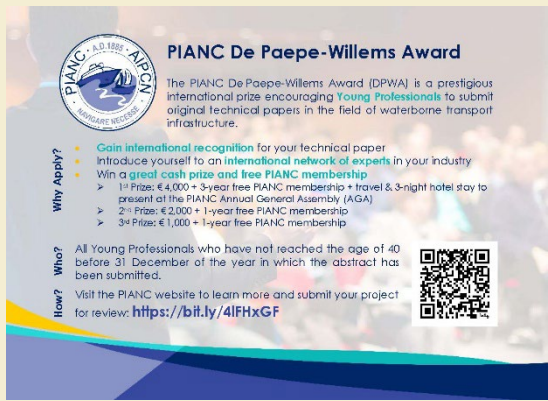
**VISIT THE WEBSITE**

**VISIT THE WEBSITE**

## SIGN UP FOR THESE PIANC AWARDS

**PIANC DE PAEPE-WILLEMS AWARD  
2027**

**WORKING WITH NATURE AWARD  
2028**



**PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award**


The PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award (DPWA) is a prestigious international prize encouraging **Young Professionals** to submit original technical papers in the field of waterborne transport infrastructure.

**Why Apply?**

- Gain **international recognition** for your technical paper
- Introduce yourself to an **international network of experts** in your industry
- Win a **great cash prize and free PIANC membership**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: € 4,000 + 3-year free PIANC membership + travel & 3-night hotel stay to present at the PIANC Annual General Assembly (AGA)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: € 2,000 + 1-year free PIANC membership
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: € 1,000 + 1-year free PIANC membership

**Who?** All Young Professionals who have not reached the age of 40 before 31 December of the year in which the abstract has been submitted.

**How?** Visit the PIANC website to learn more and submit your project for review: <https://bit.ly/4lFhxGF>



**Working with Nature Award 2028**

This international award celebrates outstanding waterborne transport infrastructure projects that demonstrate a proactive, integrated approach to working with natural processes — delivering benefits for both navigation infrastructure and the environment.

**Why Apply?**

- Gain **international recognition** for your innovative, eco-friendly approach to waterborne transport infrastructure
- Showcase your commitment to sustainability**
- Inspire others** through your example

In case your project receives a Certificate of Recognition, it will be in the running for the PIANC Working with Nature Award during the PIANC World Congress in 2028.

**Who?** Any completed or ongoing navigation infrastructure project that embodies the Working with Nature philosophy is eligible for consideration.

**How?** Visit the PIANC website to learn more and submit your project for review: [bit.ly/41DLVU](https://bit.ly/41DLVU)



### Why Apply?

- ✓ Gain international recognition for your technical paper
- ✓ Introduce yourself to an international network of experts in your industry
- ✓ Win a great cash prize and free PIANC membership

Read [these testimonials](#) by previous winners!

### Who Can Apply?

All Young Professionals who have not reached the age of 40 before 31

### Why Apply?

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 **How to Apply:**

Visit [the PIANC website](#) to learn more and submit your project for review

 **Who Can Apply?**

Any completed or ongoing navigation infrastructure project that embodies the Working with Nature philosophy is eligible for consideration.

 **How to Apply:**

Visit [the PIANC website](#) to learn more about previous winners and submit your project for review

## PIANC NORTH SEA CONFERENCE 2026



On behalf of PIANC UK and the Organising Committee, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the delegates, partners, speakers and sponsors for making PIANC's AGA and 'Navigation: to Net Zero Conference' in Hull a great success.

The engagement is greatly appreciated and played an important role in making the week both insightful and impactful.

The quality and breadth of contributions from all speakers and involvement of delegates helped stimulate valuable discussion and reinforced the importance of collaboration, shared knowledge and integrated thinking as we work towards a net zero future.

Thank you for participating and for sharing your expertise with the PIANC community. We very much hope we will have the opportunity to continue these conversations in future PIANC events.

[Nigel Bodell](#)

PIANC UK



Under the theme 'Navigation: to Net Zero', participants enjoyed many inspiring presentations on 11 and 12 May 2026 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Hull, UK, for two days of inspiring presentations and engaging discussions on the future of sustainable navigation and port infrastructure. The detailed programme can be found at <https://www.pianchull2026.org/programme/navigation-to-net-zero-conference-programme/>.

In the evening, the North Sea Conference was opened on 10 May with a very nice welcome reception. On 11 May, delegates were able to enjoy an excellent gala dinner in the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel.



**NEWS FROM THE PIANC AGA 2026**

**PIANC AGA 2026 in Hull, UK**



The PIANC Annual General Assembly 2026 took place on 13 May in Hull, UK. The PIANC delegates approved the financial matters for the previous year and received reports from the Secretary-General and the President highlighting PIANC's key activities and achievements.

The Assembly also approved the extension of the mandate of Mr [Jean-Bernard Kovarik](#) as Vice-President of PIANC. In addition, Honorary Membership was granted to Mr [Ian White](#) in recognition of his many years of dedication, friendship, and service to the Association.



In his role as Chairman of PIANC FinCom, Mr White will be succeeded by Mr [Manuel Arana Burgos](#), who has been a member of the commission for many years.

Members approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Harbour Masters' Association (IHMA), while also noting the letter of intent to collaborate with the Mekong River Commission.



The first prize of the PIANC De Paeppe-Willems Award was presented to Mr [Jordan Wolfe](#) for his paper 'Snapback - Novel Method for the Analysis of Parted Mooring Lines and Resistance Structures', with the two other winning authors also being recognised:

- [Anne-May Alkemade](#): 'Seed-Sediment Dynamics: Insights from Experiments on the Behaviour of Seagrass Seeds in Sand Mixtures to Inform Seagrass Restoration Scale-Up Methods'

- [Christelle Nadine Abadie](#): 'Design Practices and Emerging Concepts for Anchoring Systems in Floating Offshore Wind Turbines'

Updates were provided on the activities of the various PIANC Commissions during 2025, as well as on upcoming international PIANC events and initiatives. Finally, Resolution 2026, drafted by PIANC UK, was approved.

## NEWS FROM THE PIANC COMMISSIONS

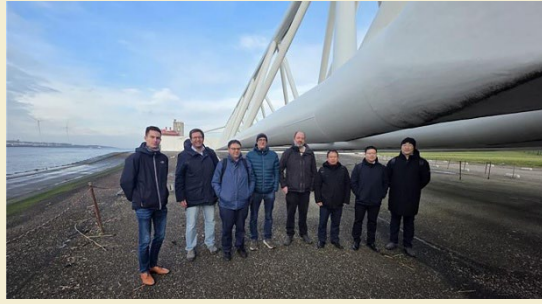
### PIANC FinCom Meeting in Hull, UK on 11 May 2026

FinCom had its second meeting of the year in Hull, UK on 11 May 2026.



The members welcomed new PIANC staff member and accountant, Mrs [Isabelle Colot](#). The FinCom members also took the opportunity to bid farewell to Mr [Ian White](#) and expressed their sincere gratitude for his many years of dedication, commitment, and friendship. Together with his successor, Mr [Manuel Arana Burgos](#), he co-chaired his last meeting in his home country!

## NEWS FROM THE PIANC WORKING GROUPS



[Update on InCom WG 257 on 'Digital Twins for Inland Waterways and Ports'](#)



[Update on InCom WG 264 - 'Innovative Digitalisation Approaches for Managing Hydraulic Structures of Inland Waterways'](#)



[Update on InCom WG 265 on 'Innovative Construction Methods of IW Hydraulic Structures'](#)

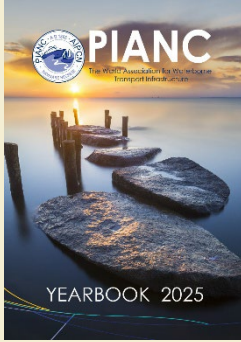


[Third Meeting of PIANC InCom WG 266 Held in Nanjing, China](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Just Shipped

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



We hope you liked the new format of the PIANC Yearbook!

We would greatly appreciate your feedback on the new Yearbook format and invite you to complete the short survey we have prepared:

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

## Publications Pipeline

The following publications are expected in June/July 2026:

- PIANC WG 171 (MarCom): 'Ship Handling Simulation Dedicated to Channel and Harbour Design'
- PIANC WG 240 (MarCom): 'Guidance for Ports in Small Island Countries'
- PIANC WG 241 (InCom): 'Floating Homes Along the Inland Waterway Banks and Infrastructure'

## Apply for These New PIANC Working Groups



PIANC is still searching for additional members for InCom WG 271 on 'Inland Waterway Guidelines for Navigation Availability Assessment'.

Contact your National Section or PIANC HQ ([info@pianc.org](mailto:info@pianc.org)) in case your country doesn't have a National Section before **1 July 2026!**

2 New InCom PIANC Working Groups will be set up. Submit your candidacy before **31 July 2026** to your National Section or to [info@pianc.org](mailto:info@pianc.org) in case your country doesn't have a National Section!



**PIANC**  
The World Association for Waterborne  
Transport Infrastructure

**NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY**  
InCom WG 272:  
**'Decarbonisation of the Inland Navigation Fleet'**

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



Download Terms of Reference  
[bit.ly/4e84Ebn](https://bit.ly/4e84Ebn)

[www.pianc.org](http://www.pianc.org)



**PIANC**  
The World Association for Waterborne  
Transport Infrastructure

**NEW WORKING GROUP | VACANCY**  
InCom WG 273:  
**'Optimised Maintenance Dredging Volumes  
in Inland Waterways'**

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



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[bit.ly/4wWbzyG](https://bit.ly/4wWbzyG)

[www.pianc.org](http://www.pianc.org)

## PIANC WEBINARS

Tune in on the Following Upcoming PIANC USA Webinar:



**PIANC USA WEBINAR**  
**'Design of Navigation Locks – Overview of the  
State-of-the-Practice'**

**DATE** Wednesday 24 June 2026 | 2-3 PM (EDT)



**Design of Navigation Locks**



PIANC USA is pleased to announce the second webinar in its 2026 series. "Design of Navigation Locks – Overview of the State-of-the-Practice" will be held Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 2 - 3 p.m. EDT. There is no cost to attend the webinar and 1 PDH credit will be given to attendees.

Presenters are Mr. John Clarkson, PE, Navigation Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE-RET) and Chair of the International PIANC Working Group 206, and Mr. Eric Johnson PE SE, USACE Inland Navigation Design Center.

This webinar will provide an overview of all the facets of lock design including planning, engineering, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation. Participants will learn how to utilize the new state-of-the-practice report from PIANC Working Group 206 <https://www.pianc.org/publication/design-of-navigation-locks/>, that is a must-have resource to efficiently design, construct, and operate a navigation lock.

Register for the webinar at  
[Registration Form for 24 June 2026 Webinar | PIANC USA](#)  
For questions related to accessing the webinar,  
contact [pianc@usace.army.mil](mailto:pianc@usace.army.mil)



**REGISTER HERE!**

PIANC USA is pleased to announce the second webinar in its 2026 series. 'Design of Navigation Locks - Overview of the State-of-the-Practice' will be held Wednesday, 24 June 2026 from 2 to 3 p.m. EDT.

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Register for the webinar at [pianc.us/news-and-events/recent-events/](https://pianc.us/news-and-events/recent-events/).

For questions related to accessing the webinar, contact [pianc@usace.army.mil](mailto:pianc@usace.army.mil).

[Helen Brohl](#)

PIANC USA

## NEWS FROM OUR PLATINUM PARTNERS

### ShibataFenderTeam Exhibits at AMIP's 60th Anniversary in Mexico City

On 19-20 May 2026, [Luis Moreno López](#), Sales Manager, represented ShibataFenderTeam at the commemorative forum 'A Look Back at the Past with an Eye Toward the Future', held in Mexico City to celebrate the 60th anniversary of AMIP, PIANC Qualifying Member in Mexico.

ShibataFenderTeam participated in the event as both exhibitor and contributor to the discussion 'Innovative Materials and Construction Systems for the Port Infrastructure of the Future'.

The forum provided a valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives with key stakeholders from the port, maritime, and coastal sectors, while strengthening industry dialogue, innovation, and strategic collaboration.

[Angels Blasco](#)

Junior Marketing Manager ShibataFenderTeam

## ON THE CALENDAR

## HR Wallingford Seminar and Technical Tour

Join PIANC UK for an afternoon seminar and technical tours of HR Wallingford's world class facilities. The event includes a seminar of presentations, covering challenges and developments in ports and waterway design. Plus, enjoy a technical tour of HR Wallingford's physical modelling facilities and ship simulation centre providing an insight into their capabilities. The event will be followed by an exciting competition!

The event is free but is limited on numbers so please reserve your place asap at the following link: [Challenges and Developments in Ports and Waterway Design | Institution of Civil Engineers \(ICE\)](#).

[Nigel Bodell](#)

PIANC UK

PIANC's Platinum Partners are:



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