



DPWA Winners

Testimonials

DPWA WINNERS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS – TESTIMONIALS



I had the honour of receiving the PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award for my paper 'Snapback: Novel Methods for the Analysis of Parted Mooring Lines and Resistance Structures', and presenting the work in Hull, United Kingdom in 2026. The paper addresses a longstanding gap in maritime engineering: How do you calculate how fast a parted mooring line can travel, and where will it go?

For me, the significance of the award extends beyond recognition of the research itself. PIANC provides a pathway through which specialist knowledge can become shared international practice. It brings researchers, engineers, port operators, regulators and infrastructure owners together to examine difficult problems collectively and translate emerging evidence into practical guidance that can be applied around the world.

That is why PIANC matters. Important research should not remain confined to a paper, a university, or a project. Through PIANC Working Group 251, which I have the great fortune of chairing, the methods developed through this work are contributing to guidance for the design of parted mooring-line arresting systems, helping ports better understand snapback risk and protect the people who work around mooring operations.

Receiving the award and presenting in Hull reinforced that PIANC is not simply a professional association. It is an international community that gives young professionals an opportunity to contribute meaningfully, work alongside recognised experts and help shape the future of the maritime industry. I would encourage any young professional with work that could improve our industry to become involved. PIANC provides the network, credibility and collaborative platform needed to turn a worthwhile idea into lasting change.

Jordan Wolfe
Australia



I had the honour of receiving the De Paepe-Willems Award 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa, for my paper based on my graduation research project. As a student in Marine Technology at Delft University, the Netherlands, I was always fascinated by the interface between vessels and ports and marine structures. When I started my research project on fender-induced berthing impact loads at the Port of Rotterdam, I came in contact with PIANC Working Group 211 and worked closely with them throughout the project.

It was an introduction to a network of inspiring and passionate experts from the industry, who come from all corners of the world. They valued my expertise and enabled me, as a young professional, to contribute to the update of the PIANC Fender Guidelines that were presented at this year's World Congress.

When receiving the award in Cape Town, I was shown once again how welcoming this worldwide network is to young professionals in the maritime navigation field. I am happy to say that I now have professional connections and friends all over the world, from Australia to the United States and from Argentina to Germany, with whom I can collaborate, share knowledge and work towards a futureproof maritime sector. I look forward to continue developing within the PIANC organisation during my career, and invite all young maritime professionals to join me and become a member of the international PIANC network.

Emma Berendsen
The Netherlands



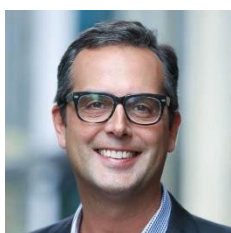
I remember that I was at the Maasvlakte port district when I received a phone call from PIANC HQ Brussels in 2007. "Congratulations! You have won the De Paepe-Willems Award and we invite you to come to Cochin in India". Meeting the PIANC community and attending the AGA was a great and completely new experience for me. Back in the Netherlands, I was asked to join the Dutch Young Professions of PIANC. I organised several excursions to inspiring infrastructure projects and networking events to discuss the impact of new PIANC Working Group reports.

Since 2007, I was involved in the development of several port infrastructure projects in the port of Rotterdam as an engineer, consultant and project manager. Furthermore, I'm participating in several national and international committees, such as the Eurocodes and the Dutch national design guidelines. In 2019, I finished my PhD at the Delft university, and I have been involved in research related to marine structures ever since.

Listing to the experience of other PANC members, I decided to apply for my first Working Group in 2009. Although I did not have much Working Group experience, I was allowed to join as a YP-member. I really enjoy collaborating with international experts, since they are all willing to share and develop knowledge and new insights. It has always been a great pleasure to visit the PIANC conferences and to meet new people with similar interests. I attended most of the PIANC conferences and became a member of three PIANC Working Groups (WG 145, WG 186 and WG 186).

Through PIANC I now have a large national and international network, and due to the enthusiasm of Pablo Arecco many friends all over the world. I think that without winning the De Paepe-Willems Award, I would not have been so active in PIANC. Hopefully, we can keep organising PIANC events. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Alfred Roubos
The Netherlands



I was fortunate to receive my De Paepe-Willems Award in 2008. As part of this award, I was able to attend the Annual General Assembly in Beijing, PR China and present on my research topic. Since then, I have become a member of PIANC Australia-New Zealand and the PIANC ANZ Board. I have travelled to several PIANC Congresses around the world, played important roles in the development of the Young Professional Commission, and attended various Annual General Assemblies worldwide. Eventually, I was elected Chairman and First Delegate of the Australia-New Zealand National Section and held this important role from 2017-2022. Throughout my career I have been immensely impressed with the worldwide organisation and proud to have won the award. I encourage others to apply for the prestigious award and to get involved with PIANC.

Professor William Glamore
Australia



I received the PIANC De Paepe-Willems Award in 2003 at the AGA in Bergen/Norway. Getting a prestigious award was an invitation to contribute to the activities of PIANC. My first activity in PIANC was to develop YP-Com from a YP implementation group. I had the honour to serve as the Chair of YP-Com for some years until I became full professor at RWTH Aachen University and director of the Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management. At this time, I developed other activities in PIANC on both national and international level. On the international level, I became member of a Working Group on the design of rubble mound breakwaters, representative of Germany in InCom and I attended several congresses and AGAs.

PIANC gave me the possibility to develop and intensify national and international cooperations and to promote my career. Even though my own research focus has developed in a different direction, I always think back to the interesting and exciting activities, the international exchange, the colleagues from other countries, and the many opportunities to work together.

Holger Schüttrumpf

Germany



I received the PIANC Willems Award in 1989. It was my first participation at a PIANC event (General Assembly in Munich, Germany). Since then, I became a PIANC member and step-by-step, I joined the Board of the PIANC Belgian Section, InCom as Belgian representative, I also acted as Chair of several WG's and finally, I was nominated as InCom Chair.

In Munich in 1989, I met Mr Hiroshi Sato, who introduced me to Kyoto University, where I did my post-doctorate in 1990-1991 and had the opportunity to join the PIANC World Congress in Osaka, Japan. Ever since 1990, I attended all the PIANC World Congresses, and many PIANC-SMART Rivers Conferences and Annual General Assemblies (AGA's).

Through PIANC, I developed an extensive network of excellence with professional contacts worldwide, which also became a large network of friends. All these contacts gave me a lot of opportunities for academic and professional collaborations, in Europe (projects in France, the Netherlands, Spain, etc.), but also in Panama (new lock lane), in the USA (flood protection of New Orleans), in China, and other parts of the world. PIANC made my life fun and attractive! My advice: follow this way, you will not be disappointed!

Philippe Rigo

Belgium