



# US Army Corps of Engineers

Institute for Water Resources

BUILDING STRONG®

## PIANC (2011)

**Status:** Completed

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**Purpose:** Founded in 1885, with its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, the International Navigation Association (PIANC) works to advance the sustainable development of maritime and inland navigation infrastructure through the international exchange and publication of expert technical information on port and waterway development. PIANC USA was organized in 1902 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serving as the Secretariat. Membership is comprised of engineers, scientists, economists, planners, dredgers, port operators, regulators, and marina and vessel owners. PIANC USA is chaired by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the President is the USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations.

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**Objective:** PIANC's value to the U.S. has grown in recent years, with the advent of globalization, information technology, and the increasing need for 'soft power' in a turbulent world. Through active participation in PIANC, the U.S. can engage the world on a technical level, shape the navigation industry, and make U.S. firms more competitive.

Objectives of the PIANC USA Secretariat in FY 2011 are to ensure that all items of PIANC business are completed effectively and in a timely manner. These include: Commissioner elections and appointments; selection of U.S. representatives on Technical Working Groups; convening of quarterly Commissioner teleconferences and semi annual Commissioner meetings; convening of a PIANC Annual meeting in Summer of 2011; planning and executing a Smart Rivers 2011 conference in New Orleans in September 2011, attending and facilitating other Commissioners' (especially the DCG CEO and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works) participation in the Annual General Assembly in Berlin, Germany in May 2011; representing the U.S. at the Council meeting in Brussels, Belgium in February 2011. Attend and participate in Latin American activities including meetings of the Organization of American States Interamerican Committee on Ports.

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**Benefits:** Most of the work of PIANC is done collaboratively by professional volunteers— this includes individuals from the USACE, universities, other government agencies, and private industry, who choose to spend their time working to advance their professional field. Through PIANC, we are able to leverage this huge amount of labor and research hours to advance the navigation mission of USACE, with the support and coordination provided by the PIANC USA Secretariat PIANC is highly regarded for its tradition of producing top-ranked technical reports which provide globally accepted solutions for navigation professionals. Technical Working Groups are comprised of experts from member countries who gather, analyze, and consolidate state-of-the-practice solutions from each country. The resulting reports are published and distributed to each PIANC

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member, and available on the website. Members gain international recognition through working group participation.

PIANC provides opportunities to connect with USACE navigation infrastructure leaders and a domestic and international community of technical professionals. Members meet to exchange information, build business contacts, and develop professional relationships.

PIANC organizes conferences, seminars, and workshops to disseminate the latest engineering, scientific, and economic advancements in the field of inland and maritime navigation and ports. Technical professionals from around the world gather to network, present and publish papers, and gain knowledge at PIANC World Congresses, PIANC USA Annual Meetings and technical specialty conferences such as Smart Rivers and Ports (co-sponsored with the American Society of Civil Engineers).

PIANC provides opportunities for training and development of Young Professionals as well. The goal is to provide value to students and professionals in the early years of their career.

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**Progress:**

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**Products:**

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**Related  
Links:**

- [PIANC USA](#) (*project web site*)
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**Partners:**