

GUIDANCE FOR PORTS IN SMALL ISLAND COUNTRIES MARCOM WG 240 UPDATE

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Summary

PIANC's MarCom WG 240 has recently commenced the preparation of a technical report titled 'Guidance for Ports in Small Island Countries'. This technical report is currently in the start-up stage with assistance of contributing authors from across the globe. This author is contributing as Chairman of the working group. This presentation will consider the terms of reference for the working group, provide an overview of the intended report contents, and describes how you can contribute.

Keywords: small island countries, remote locations, sustainable development, operational safety, natural hazard response, environmental safeguards, CAPEX and OPEX efficiency.

Background

In late 2004, a PIANC-IAPH joint working group (WG 97) was established to study the problems facing small island ports which service international and domestic trade, passengers and fishing activities.

For the purposes of the study, the working group selected thirty-seven island countries and territories spread across the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Most of these were classified as Small Island Developing States. Despite difficulties in gathering detailed information from a number of the island states, the working group was able to produce a comprehensive report.

The key challenges identified include remote locations, small populations, low incomes, limited resources, sensitive environments, lack of reliable energy and vulnerability to natural disasters. The working group presented a number of general recommendations with regard to development and maintenance of infrastructure, and financial and operational management. The working group also concluded that most of these island states cannot develop basic port infrastructure by themselves and require some form of financial assistance.

Since the WG 97 report was published in 2008, PIANC has prepared or updated a number of guidelines relating to environmental management, the planning, design and construction of port infrastructure, and to its inspection, maintenance and repair. These guidelines are highly relevant to the developing island states, however there is a need for planning and engineering solutions which give appropriate recognition to the problems posed by remoteness, limited capabilities and sensitive environments. A number of these island states have experienced difficulty in adapting such guidelines in the face of these challenges.

The proposed new guideline would update and extend WG 97, providing assistance in the application of the PIANC guidelines in a manner reflecting the conditions faced by the island states. Such a working group should attract keen participation by the island states.

Principal funding agencies such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank support the regional development of port infrastructure and the promotion of safe, sustainable and energy-efficient port operations. The inclusion in the working group of representatives of the funding

agencies will facilitate the incorporation of guidance in the identification and definition of improvement projects in a manner acceptable for consideration of aid funding.

Objective

To provide a guidance document specific to the needs of small island ports, covering best practice port planning, design and construction, efficiency and safety in port and terminal operations, environmental safeguards, implementation of sustainable technologies, and natural hazard response planning.

Typical Issues to be Addressed

Typical issues to be addressed by the working group include:

- There is a lack of measured port performance data. Guidance is needed as to how this data can be collected cost-efficiently.
- The small size of the ports and terminals and limited hinterland area impose practical limitations on operations and the scope for improvements. Guidance is needed in maximizing the viability of investment in improvements.
- There is often a lack of reliable power supply and potable water, impacting construction and operations. A number of the island countries rely on diesel generators and are subject to large fluctuations in energy prices. Guidance is required on energy efficiency and more sustainable power supply.
- A disproportionately high number of waterside and landside safety incidents are recorded at island terminals. Port operators require guidance on safety improvements.
- Environmental safeguards need to be improved. Guidance is needed on how to avoid spills and pollutants through the implementation of green initiatives, and on dealing with spills and pollutants when they occur.

Working Group Membership

- Representatives from Pacific Island port authorities, terminal operators and shipping lines;
- IAPH;
- Representatives from financial institutes such as ADB, WB and IADB;
- Consultants with experience in port planning, maritime and coastal engineering with experience specific to the Pacific Islands; and
- Contractors experienced with challenging logistics and constructability aspects as well as repairs associated with lack of maintenance regime.

Report Update

The table of contents has been prepared and the working group are now in the process of developing content. The structure of the report and intended content of each chapter will be presented.

How You Can Contribute

As the working group starts to develop the structure and content of the technical report, we would welcome all input relating to examples of best practice. Also, any suggestions as to content that is considered necessary to incorporate would also be welcome.

Acknowledgements

The Author would like to acknowledge the late Peter Fountain. Peter as the PIANC ANZ representative member of MarCom was instrumental in the initiation and development of the terms of reference for this working group and was a strong advocate of the need for increased technical guidance for small island countries.

I would also like to acknowledge Royal HaskoningDHV for their ongoing support which allows me to be a part of this working group.