

PIANC Co-operation Commission (CoCom) - Update of Activities Internationally and in Australia & New Zealand

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Summary

The Paper outlines the purpose of the Co-operation Commission (CoCom), the core role of CoCom within PIANC , the make-up of CoCom including representatives from ANZ and recent innovations and activities.

Keywords: PIANC, Co-operation Commission, CoCom

Introduction

PIANC has four Technical Commissions (InCom, MarCom, EnviCom & RecCom) that cover the different areas of waterborne transport infrastructure. They are continuously supervising the work carried out by our experts in the respective Working Groups on industry-relevant topics. The reports prepared by these Working Groups are the core business of PIANC and a highly respected resource for governments, companies, and industry associations.

Two further Commissions (CoCom & YP-Com) were set up to support Emerging Countries /Countries in Transition and Young Professionals.

Co-Com was established in the early 1970s to primarily assist with transfer of knowledge in the maritime, navigation and ports sectors across Countries in Transition.

The core activities of CoCom within PIANC are:

- Performing relevant parts of PIANC's Strategic Plan.
- Increasing the membership of PIANC by involving countries including those without National Section (NS) or Qualifying Membership (QM) status.
- Enhancing PIANC's presence in Countries in Transition.
- Creating practical tools and methods to disseminate and communicate information among countries without full National Sections.
- Guiding and assisting in organizing and delivering smaller regional conferences as well as the larger scale quadrennial PIANC-COPEDEC Conference.
- Organizing regional activities including webinars, seminars, workshops and/or training programs for Countries in Transition.
- Developing new tools and delivery mechanisms for knowledge transfer.

- Closely collaborating and co-ordinating activities with other PIANC Commissions.
- Providing a focus on virtual platforms and communication to introduce PIANC to non-member countries.

CoCom sub-committees

In achieving these core activities CoCom has established 3 sub-committees.

SC1 – Training and Education: is presently gathering all the training courses and documents related to available training courses and activities for Ports and Waterways worldwide. These will be then reviewed to identify gaps in training provision and propose development of appropriate new training programs.

In 2022, CoCom is working with other Commissions and Working Groups to prepare educational and promotional short videos, develop the PIANC website for a virtual training program, and organize free or low-cost virtual training courses for developing countries (Countries in Transition).

SC2 – Regional Activities: Target Countries; An active list of Target Countries in Transition is maintained with designated CoCom members allocated for support and progression of actions that are discussed and updated at each meeting. The list is dynamic and continues to be adjusted based on technical, political and practical realities.

ANZ is working to support knowledge transfer and PIANC activities for the Pacific and SE Asia regions.

PIANC Iran is now cooperating with the organizing of the 14th International Conference on Coasts, Ports & Marine Structures (ICOPMAS2022), scheduled from Oct. 31st to Nov. 2nd, 2022. ICOPMAS, as the oldest event in the Middle East concerning coastal areas and offshore engineering, offers an excellent opportunity to expand PIANC membership in the Middle East.

PIANC USA organizes the PIANC America Conference. This event is planned to be combined with the PIANC Young Professional Biennial Technical Visit (BTV), which PIANC USA hosts in 2023. These regional Conferences for the Americas will strengthen and expand PIANC influence in America.

SC3 – PIANC- COPEDEC Conference;

The First International Conference on Coastal and Port Engineering in Developing Countries (COPEDEC), was held in Colombo Sri Lanka in March 1983. Since then the quadrennial PIANC-COPEDEC conference series remains a major ongoing successful conference for developing countries, its organisation and delivery a key responsibility of CoCom. An ongoing goal of COPEDEC is to have equal registrations/attendees from developing and developed countries – in this it is unique. COPEDEC is always held in a Country in Transition – further sharing knowledge and developing capabilities. The 10th COPEDEC conference originally scheduled for Nov 2020 has been postponed due to COVID and is now scheduled for the Philippines in late 2023. <https://www.pianc.org/pianc-copedec-conferences>

CoCom International and ANZ

2021 was a year of changes for CoCom. During this year, after eight years, CoCom said goodbye to the old Chairmen, Mr. Edward Schmeltz (USA) and Mr. Akula R. Rao (India). In the Council Meeting on March 24, PIANC welcomed Mr. Abbas Sarmad (USA) and Mr. Mohammad Reza Allahyar (Iran) as new Co-Chairmen of CoCom.



Abbas Sarmad (USA) – Co-Chair CoCom



Mohammad Reza Allahyar (Iran) – Co-Chair CoCom

In facilitating closer communication and collaboration across PIANC, the new Co-Chairs have met with the Chairs of other Commissions and

agreed on various action areas specific to supporting Countries in Transition.

On many levels, the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenging period; however, it also created many opportunities to discover various ways of communication and collaboration. Since March 2021 members have met virtually every 3 months.

CoCom includes international experts appointed by PIANC National Sections, Qualifying Members, and Sister Associations. The current membership of CoCom includes representatives from 15 countries, comprising Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Iran, Japan, Netherlands, Panama, Philippines, South Korea, Spain, and USA.

The current representative on CoCom from ANZ is Ron Cox who can be contacted for all matters related to the activities of CoCom. r.cox@unsw.edu.au



Ron has been an active member of PIANC and CoCom for more than 20 years, Ron was involved in the organisation and holding of the First COPEDEC conference in Colombo Sri Lanka in March 1983. Ron remains active on the scientific paper selection committee and is currently the Chair of that committee for the 10th COPEDEC conference scheduled for the Philippines in late 2023.

Ron is also the CoCom nominated representative on the EnviCom Commission.

CoCom meets quarterly to discuss progress on all activities outlined above and particularly to assist regional countries with joining PIANC as Qualifying Members and/or progression to National Section status.

Vacancies currently exist for an ANZ Alternate representative (AL) and Young Professional representative (YP) on CoCom.