

GETTING READY FOR THE CONGRESS



Dear Congress Attendee:

We are looking forward to your participation in the 34th PIANC World Congress in Panama City, Republic of Panama on May 7-11. We have put this information together to provide some useful information that we hope will help ensure you have a productive and successful Congress experience.

The Riu Plaza Panama, our Congress hotel, is a beautiful property. Most of the meetings will occur on the 2nd and 4th floor, with selected Pre-Congress workshops and committee meetings at the Hotel.

Here is the address for the Riu Plaza Panama Hotel:

- Riu Plaza Panama Hotel
- Calle 50 con 53 este
- Urb. Marbella - Ciudad de Panamá - Panamá
- Phone: (507) 378 9000

We are working on a mobile app that will be ready shortly. The mobile app will provide you with a great deal of useful information on the agenda, speakers, papers, and sponsors/exhibitors. The app will be available to download for free in the iTunes and Google Play stores. More information will be given as soon as is ready! Please don't forget to visit the following pages to learn more about Panama City, stores, tours, restaurants, currency, and security:

<http://www.pianc2018.com/visit.html> and <http://www.visitpanama.com/>

In the meantime, please take a few moments to read this document for additional information. We look forward to seeing you in Panama City, Panama!!

Join us in Panama City, Panama!

Local office of the 34th PIANC World Congress 2018

Congress2018@pancanal.com

TEL.: (507)272-2900, 272-2929

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONGRESS

Event Information

The PIANC World Congress 2018 will present and discuss the most relevant topics to the waterborne transport infrastructure sector. The renowned international event is open to members and non-members. Take advantage of this gathering to exchange knowledge and experiences with experts and peers from around the world, through:

1. Annual General Assembly(AGA)

2. Short Course Workshop

- *Marina Design*
- *Working with Nature in the Americas: Generating Ecosystem Services in the Waterborne Transport Sector*

3. 34th PIANC World Congress 2018

- *Plenary and technical sessions*
- *Recreational & Tourism Marinas Forum*
- *1st PIANC America Regional Forum: Technological Advances and the Future of Navigation in America*
- *Industry exhibition*
- *Young professionals activities*
- *Partner program*

4. Technical tours

- *Atlantic Technical Tour: Transportation to Colon by train and visit to Agua Clara and Gatun Locks.*
- *Pacific Technical Tour: Partial transit through Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks, observation of Canal dredging works, and visit to Amador marina.*
- *Barro Colorado Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Technical Tour*

5. Social Events

- *Welcome cocktail*
- *Closing banquet*
- *The Miraflores Visitor Center visit and Cocktail*

6. Accompanying Persons Cultural Tours are available on the website.

Panama will be the epicenter of the latest trends and best practices in the waterborne, transport and infrastructure sector.

Language

The official language of the Congress is English.
We will have simultaneous English-Spanish interpretation

Letter Invitation

The organizers will be pleased to send a letter of invitation to any pre-registered and paid participant requesting one. It is to be understood that such an invitation is only intended to assist potential participants with the raising of travel funds or obtaining a visa. It is not a commitment for organizers to provide any financial support.

You may request such a letter from the Congress Secretariat. Please note that this letter can only be issued if participant's registration has been paid.

Attire

The dress code for the Congress is business casual (i.e. slacks, casual dresses) or business attire (i.e. neckties, business suits). Meeting rooms' temperature will vary, so wear layered clothing to ensure your personal comfort. We also recommend attendees wear comfortable shoes. Please note that certain events may have special details on attire, and you should refer to the event description for more information.

Buses

Buses to The Miraflores Visitor Center, Cocktail, Guest Program and Technical Tours will board at the main lobby of the Riu Plaza Panama Hotel. Please see the program for scheduled times. Buses will depart promptly so be on time!
Banquet will be held at the Riu Plaza Panama at Rooms Barcelona 1 – 5 so if you are staying at the hotel you will not need any additional transportation for the Banquet.

Emergency

In the case of an emergency, you may use the phones in the meeting room or your room to contact hotel staff or notify the conference team at the registration desk so assistance can be summoned.

Mass Transit & Getting around Panama

The mass transit system is useful for getting around the city. You will find Subway or Metro, buses, taxis and others. Feel free to visit <http://www.visitpanama.com/about/transportation> for additional information about buses and other forms of mass transit.

Weather

Panama has a tropical climate. Temperatures are relatively high and vary little throughout the year. The temperatures are usually lower on the Pacific than on the Caribbean coast.
The best thing about the weather in Panama City is that it is always warm through the year. You will enjoy daily highs of up to 24° C (75.2° F) to 35° C (95° F) with nights being velvet warm at 20° C (68° F) to 24° C (72.2° F) degrees. Those looking for cooler climate can find it in the Highlands of Panama in Chiriquí, Cerro Punta and the Anton Valley with daily high at 22° C (71-6° F) and cool fresh nights at to 24° C (72.2° F). Beaches: Temperatures are high, averaging 31° C (87.8°).

Panama has two seasons, the dry season from December to end of April, and the wet season from May until November.

The 34th PIANC World Congress will be held during May which means that you will experience the end of the dry season and the beginning of the wet season. Temperature will remain the same with a variety on humidity that increases during the wet season, so it might be possible to experience the first rains of the season.

Public Transportation

Metro de Panama / Panama's Metro

Metro de Panama is Panama's subway and its mission is to mobilize fast, safe and in sustainable way the population of Panama and its visitors, transforming the city of Panama and creating a culture of coexistence.

Office Address: Altos de Curundú, Avenida Ascanio Villalaz.

Phone: +507 504-7200

<http://www.elmetrodepanama.com/>

At the moment Panama's Metro has only Line 1 with:

- 14 stations:
- 2 terminals
- 3 transfer with other means of transport and for future lines (Albrook, San Miguelito, San Isidro)
- Each station has a platform length of up to 110 Meters, depending on the characteristics and final confirmation of trains.
- An installation of Patios and Workshops, at the end of the Line in the sector of Albrook, developed in an area of approximately 10 hectares. In this same area is located the Operations Control Center (CCO).
- Its mode of operation which is highly automated, with detection and monitoring system through state-of-the-art technology.
- North-south direction that connects the National Terminal of Buses, in "Albrook (ALB)", with the station "San Isidro (SIS)" in the north of the Metropolitan Area of the city of Panama, and has a length of approximately 16 kilometers. This route is inserted in a corridor of high demand of public transport.

Panama's Metro Line 1 working hours

- Monday – Saturday 4:30 a.m. 11:00 p.m.
- Sunday 06:00 a.m. 11:00 p.m.

Panama's Metro Line 2 and 3 are currently under construction in order to easily have access from other terminals.

Metro Bus

MiBus, is the company in charge of the operation of Metro Bus buses in Panama City, and has an innovative and modern "Fleet Management and Support System in Way" developed by Samsung SDS.

This system works as a complement to the Metro Bus fleet and the Panama's Metro System, through a set of digital tools to the programming of the transport services of the Metro Bus. It allows monitoring the status and location of the fleet in electronic way and in real time; as well as a centralized management of the buses in operation, verifying compliance with what has been planned, and in the case of an offset, to be able to take measures to correct or mitigate the continuous improvement that includes, among others, the level of service to the users.
<http://www.mibus.com.pa/>

Taxis

Panama has only yellow taxicabs allowed to pick up passengers in response to a street hail, you can find these cabs at the streets and at hotels. They do not have taximeters on board but they have flat rates for different directions and will mostly depend on time spent on route.

Please note that yellow taxicabs are not allowed to get in to the Tocumen International Airport. At the Tocumen International Airport you will find official white touristic transport so we suggest to take one of this if you don't have pre-arranged your transfer in advanced with a Travel Agency.

In Panama City you can always find some other methods of transportation such as Uber or Cabify that have flat rates to move around the city and even from the Tocumen International Airport.

Panama Canal Railway

The Panama Canal Railway (Spanish: Ferrocarril de Panamá) is a railway line that runs parallel to the Panama Canal, linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean in Central America. The route stretches 47.6 miles (76.6 km) across the Isthmus of Panama from Colón (Atlantic) to Balboa (Pacific, near Panama City). It is operated by Panama Canal Railway Company, which is jointly owned by Kansas City Southern and Mi-Jack Products.[3]

The Panama Canal Railway currently provides both freight and passenger service.

The infrastructure of this railroad (formerly named the Panama Railway or Panama Rail Road) was of vital importance for the construction of the Panama Canal over a parallel route half a century after it opened. The principal incentive for the building of the rail line was the vast increase in traffic to California owing to the 1849 California Gold Rush. Construction on the Panama Railroad began in 1850 and the first revenue train ran over the full length on January 28, 1855. Referred to as an inter-oceanic railroad when it opened, it was later also described by some as representing a "transcontinental" railroad, despite only transversing the narrow isthmus connecting the North and South American continents.

Working Hours:

Monday – Friday

Panama – Colon 7:00 a.m.

Colon – Panama: 5:00 p.m.

P.O. Box 2669 Balboa - Ancon, Panama,
Republic of Panama

Phone: (507) 317-6070

Fax: (507) 317-6061

Office and Train Station Address: Bldg. T-376, Corozal West

<http://www.panarail.com/en/index.html>

SUNDAY, MAY 6	
7:00 am – 5:30 pm	Congress Registration 2nd Floor Foyer - Hotel Riu Plaza Panama
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	AGA's Technical Visit: Cocolí Locks
	Pre-Congress Technical Workshops (separately priced)
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Short Course, Working with Nature in the Americas: Generating Ecosystem Services in the Waterborne Transport Sector Room TBD
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Short Course Workshop: Marina Design Room TBD
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Young Professional/VIP Reception (invitation only), Riu Plaza Panama Hotel Room: The Syxth, 6th floor
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Conference Welcome Reception & Official Conference Start, Riu Plaza Panama Hotel Room: The Syxth, 6th floor
MONDAY, MAY 7	
7:00 am – 5:30 pm	Congress Registration 2nd Floor Foyer - Hotel Riu Plaza Panama
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Morning coffee room to be confirmed Foyer 2nd floor
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Opening Plenary, Rooms: Panama 2, 3 & 4
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break in Exhibit Hall Rooms: Panama 1
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions, Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2, 3 & 4
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch: Room Barcelona 1 – 5
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions, Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2, 3 & 4
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break in Exhibit Hall, Room: Panama 1
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions, Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2, 3 & 4
5:15 pm – 6:30 pm	Recreational & Tourism Marinas Forum Room TBD
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Serious Game "Ports of the future" (invitation only) - Room TBD
TUESDAY, MAY 8	
7:00 am – 5:30 pm	Congress Registration 2nd Floor Foyer - Hotel Riu Plaza Panama
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Morning coffee Rooms: Panama 1
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break in Exhibit Hall, Room: Panama 1
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Room: Barcelona 1 – 5
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break in Exhibit Hall Rooms: Panama 1
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
5:00 pm- 7:00 pm	1st PIANC America Regional Forum: Technological Advances and the Future of Navigation in America - Room TBD
7:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Young Professional Networking Event (invitation only), Place to be confirmed!

TUESDAY, MAY 8	
7:00 am – 5:30 pm	Congress Registration 2nd Floor Foyer - Hotel Riu Plaza Panama
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Morning coffee Rooms: Panama 1
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break in Exhibit Hall, Room: Panama 1
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Room: Barcelona 1 – 5
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break in Exhibit Hall Rooms: Panama 1
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
5:00 pm- 7:00 pm	1st PIANC America Regional Forum: Technological Advances and the Future of Navigation in America - Room TBD
7:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Young Professional Networking Event (invitation only), Place to be confirmed!
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9	
7:00 am – 5:30 pm	Congress Registration 2nd Floor Foyer - Hotel Riu Plaza Panama
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Morning Coffee in the Exhibit Hall, Rooms: Panama 1
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break in Exhibit Hall, Rooms: Panama 1
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Rooms: Barcelona 1 - 5
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2 ,3 & 4
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break in Exhibit Hall, Rooms: Panama 1
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2 ,3 & 4
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Congress Banquet, Rooms: Barcelona 1 – 5
THURSDAY, MAY 10	
7:00 am – 5:30 pm	Congress Registration 2nd Floor Foyer - Hotel Riu Plaza Panama
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Morning coffee in the Exhibit Hall, Rooms: Panama 1
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break in Exhibit Hall, Rooms: Panama 1
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Technical Sessions Rooms: Mallorca, Berlin 1, Berlin 2, Panama 2,3 & 4
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Closing Plenary and Luncheon, Rooms: Barcelona 1 - 5
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Technical Tour 1 – The Miraflores Visitor Center and Cocktail: Buses will begin to boarding at 3:15 p.m. and depart promptly at 3:30 to The Miraflores Visitor Center to Visit de Museum and for the Cocktail

FRIDAY, MAY 11	
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Technical Tour 2 - Barro Colorado Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute: Buses will begin to boarding at 7:15 a.m. and depart promptly at 7:30 a.m. to the Barro Colorado Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on the Panama Canal waters. USD\$100.00
6:00 am – 3:00 pm	Technical Tour 3 - Atlantic Technical Tour: Buses will begin to boarding at 5:45 a.m., depart promptly at 6:00 to the Train Station in order to cross parallel to the Canal, and get to the Caribbean Side to Visit the Locks. USD\$120.00
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Technical Tour 4- Pacific Technical Tour: Buses will begin to boarding at 7:45 a.m. and depart promptly at 8:00 to the Partial Transit through Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks, observation of canal dredging works, and visit to Amador Marina. USD\$180.00
Last day to register for the tours: Tuesday, May 8	



34th PIANC WORLD CONGRESS PANAMA 2018 May 7 to 11



CANAL DE PANAMÁ

