



Brussels, March 7, 2014.

*To the First Delegates
of the Qualifying Members of PIANC
To the National Sections' Secretaries of PIANC
The Sister Associations of PIANC*

Subject: EnviCom - Setting up of a Working Group 176 on "**A Guide for applying Working with Nature to Navigation Infrastructure Projects**".

Dear Madam, Dear Sir
Dear Colleagues,

In October 2008 PIANC issued a position paper on "Working with Nature" Philosophy, which is now translated into many languages. Since 2008, numerous navigation infrastructure projects around the world have been developed using elements of this 'Working with Nature' (WwN) philosophy.

PIANC is now keen to recognize these projects and has established a WwN database accessible through the PIANC homepage and a WwN jury of international experts to grant "Working with Nature" Certificates of Recognition and every four years a "Working with Nature Award". The first WwN award will be presented at the next PIANC congress in San Francisco, June 1-5, 2014.

This philosophy is of strategic importance to PIANC and to all navigation bodies if we want to continue being able to proceed with infrastructure projects compatible with the environment. It therefore appeared important to develop a guide for applying the "Working with Nature" philosophy to practical navigation projects.

Consequently PIANC is setting up a Working Group on "A Guide for applying "Working with Nature" to Navigation Infrastructure Projects" to collect currently available international experiences and to develop a guidance to support the WwN philosophy implementation in practice. The Terms of Reference are enclosed herewith as part of this call for members. The guide coming out of this Working Group will apply to all type of infrastructure projects: inland navigation, maritime for commercial but also recreational ports.

We are looking forward to receiving the **nomination of an expert from your country or organization**. May we ask you to **inform PIANC HQ by May 1st, 2014** including the name, qualifications and (e-mail) address of the expert proposed by your country/organization. Please enclose a brief curriculum vitae of the proposed expert together with some details about his professional experiences. **Note that a second expert per country/organization, being a young professional, can also participate in the working group activities.**

An informal, first meeting for this Working Group (for those members who can attend) **is planned to coincide with the PIANC congress in San Francisco, June 1-5, 2014**, where the first "Working with Nature Award" will also be presented. The formal kick off meeting for this Working Group shall take place before the end of this year.

We remind you that in accordance with PIANC rules, the costs incurred in taking part in working groups' activities are borne by the member countries/organizations.

We thank you beforehand for your collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Eng. L. Van Schel
Secretary-General