



CANAL DE PANAMÁ

Dear PIANC colleagues and partners – Welcome to Panama!

We extend a heartfelt welcome to all to the **34th PIANC World Congress** that we will be hosting in Panama on May 2018 titled **Connecting Maritime Hubs Globally**.


The Organizing and Scientific Committees, composed of prestigious PIANC international members, are working hard to excel in this event as in previous world congresses, to provide a gateway to meet, share, and acquire knowledge through the latest updates in key areas: inland navigation, dredging, logistics and infrastructure, ports, marinas, and environment.

The chosen theme for the **34th PIANC World Congress** goes hand in hand with Panama's geographical location and its Canal in the heart of America, joining all continents, and Panama's vocation as a key player in the maritime industry and logistic chain, strategically aiming to become the hub of the Americas. The technical visits will include the recently completed Panama Canal Expansion with new locks to transit Neopanamax vessels; some of the top container handling ports in Latin America; and the multimodal hub with rail, road, air and water infrastructure, supported by modern airports, communications, international banking, insurance and a financial center. Many global enterprises have chosen to locate their regional offices in Panama due to all of the advantages offered.

The venue will be the RIU Plaza Hotel, which is conveniently located in Panama's financial center, from where you can visit the colonial and historical centers, modern shopping malls, and enjoy great dining and nightlife. You may want to save some time to enjoy the beautiful white sand beaches; visit indigenous communities; explore our lush tropical forests; or just take a quiet walk overlooking a paradisiacal sunset.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we welcome all of our international colleagues and their partners to the 34th PIANC World Congress.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank PIANC's directors for placing their trust on us to host this prestigious congress in Panama, *¡Nos vemos pronto!*


MANUEL E. BENÍTEZ H.
Deputy Administrator
Panama Canal Authority

