



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New International Coalition of Navigation Infrastructure Associations urge
Think Climate**

TOKYO, 4 December 2015 – On Sunday 6th December, Transport Day at the Paris #COP21⁽¹⁾, PIANC's Think Climate coalition will formally launch its 2015-2020 Action Plan, entitled Navigating a Changing Climate⁽²⁾.

The international associations that are partners in the PIANC⁽³⁾ Think Climate coalition⁽⁴⁾ have prepared this Action Plan jointly, as an initiative under the Transport Focus of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda⁽⁵⁾ coordinated by the Paris Process on Mobility and Climate⁽⁶⁾. The Navigating a Changing Climate initiative forms part of the COP21 #WeAreTransport campaign⁽⁷⁾, which seeks to deliver urgent action: decarbonising the transport sector, improving the resilience of transport infrastructure, and adapting transport infrastructure to the effects of the changing climate.

The principle of stronger together underpins the work of the Think Climate coalition: broadening effort, scaling-up activity, and reaching out to an extended audience around the world. The Action Plan sets out the measures required to realise the coalition's vision of ensuring the owners, operators and users of navigation infrastructure⁽⁸⁾, globally:

- are aware of the issues associated with the changing climate, and of the need to act now
- have access to existing and new, sector-specific technical and institutional

resources aimed at facilitating climate change mitigation and adaptation

- have developed the capacity to make timely and effective mitigation and adaptation decisions, and
- collaborate with others within and beyond the sector to identify and deliver integrated, resilient and sustainable solutions, with an emphasis on Working with Nature ⁽⁹⁾.

By providing a one-stop-shop for information and support, inter alia through the preparation of technical good practice guidance and the organisation of conferences, workshops and webinars, the Think Climate coalition will encourage the navigation infrastructure sector:

- to take measures to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions; to take decisions that avoid locking into fossil fuel futures; and to move to low carbon infrastructure
- to act to prepare for climate change, to strengthen resilience, and to adapt inland and maritime waterborne transport infrastructure to sea level rise, more frequent floods or droughts, more extreme wave, wind or flow conditions and other effects, and
- to seek integrated and sustainable solutions by Working with Nature and by engaging with others, both within and beyond the navigation sector.

Geoffroy Caude, President of PIANC, said “This is a vitally important initiative. Waterborne transport infrastructure has always been designed and operated taking into account extreme water levels, storms, waves and droughts but climate change is exacerbating these conditions and we are already seeing conditions rarely if ever seen before – for example the 120 consecutive days of low water experienced this year on the River Rhine, Europe’s busiest waterway, or the severe water shortages in lake Gatun (the source of fresh water to the Panama canal locks) associated with the strongest El Nino event recorded since the opening of this canal in 1914.

Events of such significance require a commensurate response. PIANC’s new Think Climate coalition therefore brings together all the major international associations with interests in navigation infrastructure, with the objective of hastening mitigation action to reduce emissions from waterborne transport infrastructure; improving preparedness; and promoting the adaptation of infrastructure to the effects of the changing climate.

Susumu Naruse, Secretary General of IAPH, mentioned “The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) as a partner in the Think Climate coalition is

proud and happy to be part of the #We AreTransport campaign and our global efforts of combating climate change will be advanced further”.

Notes for Editors

- (1) COP21, the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, will take place in Paris, France, from November 30th to December 11th. COP21 will be a crucial conference in that it needs to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C
http://unfccc.int/meetings/paris_nov_2015/meeting/8926.php
- (2) A copy of the Navigating a Changing Climate Action Plan can be found via:
<http://www.pianc.org/thinkclimate.php>
- (3) PIANC is the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure, a forum where professionals around the world join forces to provide expert advice on cost-effective, reliable and sustainable infrastructure to facilitate the growth of waterborne transport. Established in 1885 as a non-political and non-profit organisation, PIANC brings together the best international experts on technical, economic and environmental issues pertaining to waterborne transport infrastructure. Members include national governments and public authorities, corporations and interested individuals <http://www.pianc.org/aboutpianc.php>
- (4) In addition to PIANC, the partners in the Think Climate coalition are:
 - a. International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)
<http://www.iaphworldports.org/>
 - b. International Harbour Masters' Association (IHMA)
<http://www.harbourmaster.org/>
 - c. International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA) <http://www.impahq.org/>
 - d. International Bulk Terminals Association (IBTA)
<http://www.drybulkterminals.org/>
 - e. Smart Freight Centre (SFC) <http://www.smartfreightcentre.org/>
 - f. European Dredging Association (EuDA)
<http://www.european-dredging.eu/>
- (5) The Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) is a joint undertaking of the Peruvian and French COP presidencies, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the UNFCCC Secretariat. It is aimed at strengthening global climate action throughout 2015, in Paris in December and beyond. The LPAA aims at demonstrating that the transition to a low-GHG and climate-resilient economy and society is urgent; is politically, economically and technologically feasible; and is already underway <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>

- (6) The PPMC, an open and inclusive platform that actively invites all organisations and initiatives that support effective action on transport and climate change to join, was created to strengthen the voice of the sustainable transport community in the UNFCCC process, especially with a view to the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP21) in December 2015 in Paris. <http://ppmc-cop21.org/>; also <http://ppmc-cop21.org/pianc-think-climate-coalition-releases-action-plan-on-navigating-a-changing-climate/>
- (7) #WeAreTransport : see <http://ppmc-cop21.org/the-transport-community-comes-together-in-support-of-accelerating-action-on-climate-change-wearetransport/>
- (8) Waterborne transport (or navigation) infrastructure includes ports and harbours; canals and navigable rivers including major waterways such as the Panama Canal and the River Rhine as well as waterways used for recreational boating; dredged channels; docks and locks; breakwaters and embankments; quays, wharves, jetties and pontoons; marinas, and much more.
- (9) Working with Nature is a philosophy developed by PIANC to help ensure: that the natural environment is taken into account in the earliest stages of an initiative or project; that ecosystem services and the role of physical processes are considered alongside logistical and economic issues; and that win-win solutions are identified through collaboration with stakeholders <http://www.pianc.org/workingwithnature.php>

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About IAPH

Founded in 1955, the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) is a nonprofit global alliance of roughly 180 ports and 150 maritime companies and institutes representing about 90 countries. The IAPH is dedicated to fostering cooperation among ports and harbors and promoting the vital role they play in creating a peaceful, more prosperous world. Based in Tokyo and recognized as the only voice speaking for ports around the globe, the IAPH has Consultative NGO Status from the United Nations and is active in developing international trade and maritime policy. IAPH member ports handle about 70 percent of world container traffic and more than 60 percent of all international maritime trade.

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