



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



PIANC Annual General Assembly

Helsinki, Finland
25–28 May, 2009



www.congreszon.fi/PIANC2009

WELCOME

Helsinki, Finland

Finland – situated in northern Europe with a quarter of its total area lying north of the Arctic Circle – is an independent republic since 1917 and became a member of the European Union in 1995. Its population is 5.3 million, and Finland is the sixth largest country in Europe in area, with a population density of 15.5 persons per square kilometre. Finland is the most heavily forested country in Europe, with 23 million hectares under forest cover. However, today most Finns, some two thirds, live in urban areas. The capital Helsinki has 561 000 residents.

Finland is an advanced industrial economy: the metal, engineering and electronics industries account for about 60 % of export revenues, the forest products industry for about 20 %. Finland is one of the leading countries in Internet use.

Finland's capital, Helsinki, together with its neighbouring cities of Espoo and Vantaa, is the biggest urban concentration in the country, with a combined population of about a million. As Finland's busiest port, Helsinki spills across a group of Baltic islands and promontories, and its smart new suburbs extend into the surrounding forests and countryside.

Helsinki is one of Europe's most modern and culturally progressive cities, yet remains in touch with an intriguing history stretching back over 450 years. It is a city of bustling, colorful market squares and halls, of outdoor summer concerts and sports events, of seaside parks, of excellent cafes and restaurants for every taste and budget, top-notch hotels and cutting-edge art in fine museums. It is also a pleasantly compact city, with many of the attractions in the central districts, within easy reach of one another. Attractions range from the fabulous island fortress of Suomenlinna in the entrance to the South Harbour and the Open Air Museum of traditional buildings on the island of Seurasaari, to the startling Kiasma housing the Museum of Contemporary Art and the unique 'Church in the Rock'. History abounds in the magnificent Senate Square, with its neo-

Classical Lutheran Cathedral, in the nearby Uspensky Orthodox Cathedral, and in the art nouveau details of the Railway Museum and National Museum. Further information about the City of Helsinki is available at: www.hel2.fi/tourism/EN/matko.asp

Excursions from Helsinki might include a coastal steamer trip to the Old Town of Porvoo, a leisurely cruise around the local archipelago, a trek through the National Park at nearby Nuuskio, or a day-trip to the Estonian capital, Tallinn, just 90 minutes by hydrofoil across the Gulf of Finland. Helsinki is also a good starting point for Baltic cruises to St Petersburg to the east and Stockholm to the west.

The Finnish Maritime Administration

The Finnish Maritime Administration is the authority responsible for maritime safety, fairway maintenance, hydrographic charting, winter traffic assistance and the provision of ferry services to the archipelago communities. The Administration is also responsible for the

vessel traffic service (VTS) and is the authority supervising pilotage. The Administration ensures that the basic operational conditions for merchant shipping and sea transport are maintained and continually improved, taking into account safety and economic aspects, as well as environmental consequences. The activities aim to ensure safe and efficient merchant shipping, meeting both society's and customers' needs.

The Finnish Maritime Administration purchases, either from the established state enterprises or other companies, the services needed to ensure unhindered shipping. The Administration also maintains its production related to fairways and nautical charts.

The Finnish Maritime Administration finances its services for merchant shipping by charging its customers fairway fees. It also conducts official and public services which are financed out of the government budget. The Finnish Maritime Administration's annual budget is roughly 100 million euros. The Finnish Maritime Administration employs over 700 persons in various parts of Finland.



From the sea towards the Cathedral.

Photo: City of Helsinki, Mika Lappalainen

Photo: City of Helsinki, Boy Huiden



Fortress island of Suomenlinna, Helsinki.

OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAM

Monday 25 May

09:00–12:00 ExCom Meeting
12:00–13:30 Lunch
13:30–16:00 ExCom Meeting
18:00–21:00 Reception of the City of Helsinki

Tuesday 26 May

09:00–12:30 AGA
12:30–14:00 Lunch
14:00–16:30 AGA continued
18:00–20:00 Guided tour in the Suomenlinna Fortress
20:00–24:00 AGA Banquet in Suomenlinna Fortress

Wednesday 27 May

09:00–12:30 Technical seminar
12:30–14:00 Lunch
14:00–16:30 Technical seminar
Optional Golf
17:00–21:30 Visit to the Port of Vuosaari (Helsinki)

Thursday 28 May

08:00–10:00 Helsinki–Kotka
10:00–11:30 Visit to the Port of Kotka
11:30–13:00 Lunch
13:00–15:30 Kotka–Lappeenranta
15:30–19:30 Dinner cruise on the Saimaa Canal and Lake Saimaa
20:00 Show at the Imatra Rapids
20:30–24:00 Imatra–Helsinki

Spouse Program

All registered spouses and accompanying persons are welcome to join the PIANC AGA social events in the evenings, and the excursion on Thursday. In addition, special spouse program will be arranged during the conference.

Post AGA tour

There is an optional post AGA visit the City of Rovaniemi at the Polar Circle. This tour will only be arranged if the required minimum number of participants will be reached. Registration and detailed information on the payment will be available on the PIANC AGA website. Further information about the City of Rovaniemi is available at www.tourism.rovaniemi.fi/

Registration

The registration of PIANC AGA will be completed by filling in the on line registration form at www.congreszon.fi/PIANC2009. Detailed information on the payment will be available on the website. The registration will open on the 15th of January 2009. The final deadline for registrations is 31st of March 2009.

GENERAL INFORMATION

AGA Venue and Hotel

The PIANC AGA 2009 will be held at the Marina Congress Centre, overlooking the harbour and just a short walk from downtown Helsinki.

The PIANC AGA 2009 hotel is Scandic Grand Marina hotel, which is situated just across the street from the AGA Venue.

Further information about the Congress Venue is available at: www.marinacongresscenter.com/frontpage.htm

Practicalities

Travel

Helsinki-Vantaa International Airport, 19 kilometres to the north of the city, serves flights to destinations throughout Europe, North America and the Far East. There are daily cruise ferry connections between Stockholm and Helsinki as well as between Tallinn and Helsinki, operated for instance by the TallinkSilja and Viking Line.

Weather

Nature's gift to Finland is her four seasons, each providing an unforgettable experience. In spring, the average daily temperature is around 13° C (55° F).

Money

The currency in Finland is the Euro (€), which is divided into 100 cents. In Finland, Euro prices are rounded up to the nearest 5 cents. Foreign currencies are easily exchanged to Euros at exchange agencies and banks in the city centre. There are no currency restrictions in Finland.

Passport/visa

Finland is a member of the European Union and visas are not required for citizens of EU-countries. A valid passport is required. Citizens of other countries should contact the nearest Finnish embassy for further information.





Photo: City of Helsinki, Paul Williams



Photo: City of Helsinki, Comma Image Oy



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND CONTACTS

Organizing Committee

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Chairman, PIANC Finland, The Finnish Maritime Administration

Olli Holm

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Conference Management

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