



Working group 126 – CoCom

Terms of Reference

Training in Ports and Waterways

1. Introduction

In Countries in Transition (CiT) there is a pressing need to get specialist training on hydraulic, coastal and structural engineering aspects related to ports and waterways, and in other areas such as environmental, economic and logistical aspects. Many young professionals embarking on careers in port engineering only have basic training as a civil engineer and learn the ropes through practical experience. Thus, the need has been identified by PIANC to set up a Working Group on Training, to analyze existing training courses worldwide in the field of ports and waterways, identify gaps in training provision and devise appropriate training programmes. An important aspect of training is skill-building of the trainers themselves. In preparation of this Working Group a Task Group is making an inventory of existing courses, which will be available to the Working Group.

2. Objectives

The following objectives have been set for the WG:

Prepare a report with an overview of existing (short) courses for professional training in the field of ports and waterways

- categorized according to main focus area (technical, environmental, economic, logistical, etc.
- identifying direct training and train-the-trainer programmes
- listing strengths and weaknesses.

Special attention will be given to distant-learning courses as these may be of particular interest to professionals from CiT.

The report will also indicate whether specific areas are not covered by the existing courses (possibly region-specific) and make recommendations on how to improve this.

3. Methodology

The results of the Task Group will be taken as a starting point. Additional data on courses may be unearthed after the WG has started. Missing information will be collected by consulting the respective course providers. Subsequently the information will be analyzed in more depth with respect to content (technical, environmental, economic and logistical), target group (direct training or train-the-trainer) and specific regional aspects (e.g. ice engineering for countries where ice-loading is an important issue). The analysis

results will allow to list the courses in the categories mentioned above and to evaluate them in terms of: (i) entry requirements, (ii) extent and depth, (iii) method (such as distant-learning) and quality of training, (iv) relevance for CiT, (v) target regional areas.

Finally recommendations will be prepared for minimum course content, depending on category. To develop such recommendations consultation with UNCTAD and IMO may be desirable.

All results will be presented in a draft report. The final result will be presented on a web site in the form of a comprehensive overview of available courses, in addition to the regular PIANC-report.

4. Time frame

The draft report will be completed within 2 years from the start of the Working Group.