



Patricia Ehrman
Senior Marketing Coordinator
386-418-6400 x1012
pehrman@appliedtm.com

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**Marina Planning and Nautical Development in Latin America
*Reaching out to Latin America, Senior Engineer Esteban L. Biondi to present
Marina Planning paper in a regional conference.***

In celebration of PIANC's 125th anniversary, the Argentine Association of Port Engineers, AADIP, will hold its first Latin American Seminar during their 6th Argentine Congress of Port Engineering. ATM Senior Engineer, Mr. Esteban L. Biondi, will present his paper on *Marina Planning*.

With years of experience dedicated to marina consulting in many regions of the world, Mr. Biondi addresses both the broad regional issues of marina planning and recreational boating infrastructure, as well as individual projects. Experience in integrated planning is critical for the design of a single facility, but it is also important to understand the dynamics of regional development.

Boat manufacturing and repair capabilities are widespread in the Latin American region, including megayacht manufacturers located in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. However, most infrastructure is outdated and existing framework discourages new waterfront growth. "Recreational and tourism boating is severely restrained, even if the region already has many ingredients for success", says Biondi.

Market studies, engineering analysis, environmental considerations, business evaluations, and land and water use planning must be integrated into the planning process for waterfront development – whether new or rehabilitated. With well planned infrastructure and the right incentives, the boating industry can grow and encourage other industries, such as tourism and manufacturing, to thrive. According to Biondi, "ultimately, the most profound objective of marina planning includes benefiting the communities that harbor them."

The paper also suggests that governments in the region should facilitate nautical infrastructure development by establishing the right incentives and a smart regulatory framework. He also calls for a better dialogue with tourism authorities that have interest in nautical tourism development, but need assistance relative to infrastructure development.

About ATM

Applied Technology & Management, Inc. (ATM) is a coastal, environmental, marine, and water resources engineering firm, serving public and private clients since 1984. ATM is known throughout the world in the specialized area of marina design and development. ATM's

experienced staff employs an integrated marina development process to include market research, financial planning tools, environmental considerations, and engineering that result in market-sensitive designs that maximize return on investment.

With experience in the United States, Middle East, Caribbean, and other worldwide locations, the ATM team is committed to serving the Latin American market.

For more information, please go to www.appliedtm.com

About the author

Mr. Biondi has over 18 years of experience in ocean and waterfront projects, ranging from marina developments and cruise destinations to port structures and environmental impact studies. Since 1993, he has worked as a consultant on projects throughout the Caribbean, Latin America, U.S., Middle East, Europe, and Asia, and was involved in over 70 marina studies or projects. Since 2002, Mr. Biondi has been part of ATM's consulting teams and collaborates in the development of its methodologies and planning tools.