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CONFERENCE REPORT

CEDA Dredging Days 2005- Dredging: The Extremes
2 –4 November 2005, Ahoy’ Rotterdam, the Netherlands

“….a most excellent conference as it was a technical and social event well worth remembering and paying for”

Tim Welp US Army Corps of Engineers, Wes, United States of America

On the theme “ Dredging: The extremes” the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) held the most recent in the series of biennial CEDA Dredging Days from 2nd to 4th November 2005 at Ahoy’ Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The CEDA Dredging Days, which after successful conferences spanning a period of 25 years in Amsterdam, were held in Rotterdam for the first time, in conjunction with Europort Maritime 2005 International Trade Fair. Rotterdam, one of the largest ports in the world, and around 20M m3 is dredged annually to maintain safe navigation depths and improve the port facilities, is an ideal location for a dredging conference. Over 200 participants, and some 30 exhibitors from 21 countries registered for the conference. Participants - engineers, scientists, and decision makers represented a wide variety of expertise and industry, reflecting CEDA’s diverse membership.

The CEDA Dredging Days was organized by Ahoy’ Rotterdam under the auspices of CEDA and was sponsored by CableArm, DPC, IHC Holland, Port of Rotterdam, Royal Boskalis Westminster VBKO and VOSTA LMG.

Rewert Wurpts, of the Port Authority of Emden, Germany and currently President of CEDA, opened the Dredging Days. Commenting on today’s dredging market Mr Wurpts said: “During the previous Dredging Days in 2003 the situation was more or less alarming; there was no light at the end of the tunnel, no real ray of hope. In the meantime things have changed. I was happy to learn that order books, especially in the hopper market, are filling up step by step. This keeps CEDA’s corporate members hopeful, as well as us. After several years of ‘downturns’ the ‘upturns’ have started and I hope they will continue.” Mr Wurpts encouraged participants to take maximum advantage of the conference, the presentations, the following discussions and the exhibition to catch up with the latest developments of the profession to increase efficiency, effectiveness and to create more benefits from dredging. Closing his opening address, the CEDA President thanked to Ahoy’ Rotterdam for the good partnership and co-operation in staging this year’s Dredging Days and expressed his thanks to the CEDA office for the excellent preparation of the event.

The keynote speech entitled “Ports & Shipping: Important drivers for the dredging industry” was delivered by John Verschelden, Vice President and Head of Government & Regulatory Affairs of APM Terminals. With headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands, APM Terminals has operations in more than 35 ports worldwide. In 2004 the company handled about 20.6M TEU and its current development programme includes ten new
container terminals. During his career in the management of port finance and administration, intermodal operations and the development and operation of container terminals Mr Verschelden has amassed a fund of experience, which he shared with his audience. He discussed relationship between ports, the shipping industry and dredging, highlighting the importance of dredging to the evolution of worldwide trade. Both economy and concern for the environment are drivers for increased depth. For instance emissions from a fully laden Post–Panamax vessel are about 26% lower per container carried than for a Panamax vessel. As, in response to expectations from the container shipping lines, container terminal operators prepare for the next generation container ships that may require water depths of up to 18m, Verschelden identified the following effects/requirements concerning the dredging industry: “(1) Count on ports for sustained business (2) Support ports by striving for continuous cost cutting (3) Be innovative in serving the ports industry (4) Dredging industry must make a quantum leap.”

The theme of Dredging: The Extremes was chosen to illustrate the response of the dredging industry to the extraordinary new demands that is faces, whether in terms of end results or of working conditions. Under the central theme, the technical programme was presented in seven sessions: (1) Dredging in complex regulatory environments (2) Jetting (3) Case studies (4) Environment (5) Advances in Science and Technology Part 1 (6) Part 2 and (7) Technical progress. The papers were presented by a distinguished array of authors from academic and industrial sources from different countries, who are up-to-date on cutting-edge developments and who provided a comprehensive analysis of the central theme. The technical sessions were a vital forum for discussion and exchange of ideas, experience and technology. As the Chairman of the Technical Papers Committee, Professor Wim Vlasblom, of the Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands, said, “The papers presented in this conference clearly show that developments in dredging technology are continuing. Even after the significant enlargements in scale of trailing suction hopper dredgers and of the new generation of cutter suction dredgers in recent years, there are still many openings for the innovative use of advances in dredging technology. The variety of interesting subjects and the impressive number of innovative, new ideas we have heard about during these two days will undoubtedly propel the dredging industry towards new applications and extremes”.

The IADC award for the best paper was presented to Andreas Wurpts for his paper entitled “Morphodynamic-numerical simulations of dredged matter open disposal”. Mr Wurpts, a young engineer is in the final stages of his PhD study in the field of numerical simulations related to free-surface hydrodynamics and sediment transport at the University of Technology Darmstadt, Germany.

For the first time since the inception of the CEDA Dredging Days, the conference had its own focused technical exhibition staged in the foyer of the conference room. Twelve companies participated in this exhibition, showing their new products and services to conference delegates. The exhibition was also visited by some 100 CEDA members who joined their colleagues for the traditional CEDA Netherlands Reception at the end of the first day of the conference. The companies exhibiting included dredging contractors, dredge builders, consultants, suppliers of ancillary equipment and various service providers.

The two-day programme of technical sessions was preceded by a technical visit that illustrated the importance of dredging to the Port of Rotterdam. The tour started with a visit to the Slufter, where Gijs Berger, Interim Manager of the Slufter, gave detailed information about the world’s largest confined disposal facility. A harbour tour by the luxurious Spido boat Marco Polo followed. During the tour, Gerard van Raalte of Boskalis, member of the CEDA Environmental Steering Committee and former member of the CEDA Board of Directors shared his in-depth knowledge of the port and ongoing and completed dredging works with the participants. All those who joined the technical visit had an informative and pleasant afternoon that afforded delegates an excellent opportunity to mix business with pleasure. An attractive two-day programme taking in the most interesting sites of Rotterdam was organised for the partners of the delegates.

All papers presented at the conference were peer reviewed and are published in the conference proceedings on CD-ROM. Copies of the CD-ROM can be ordered from CEDA at €60 for CEDA, EADA and WEDA.
members and €90 for non-members (prices do not include postage and packaging). Bibliographic information, including the abstracts, will shortly be available at www.dredgeline.net the online bibliographic reference database for dredging literature.

For further information on any aspect of the conference or on activities organized by CEDA please contact: Anna Csiti, General Manager CEDA at the CEDA Secretariat.