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PRESS RELEASE

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CEDA Dredging Days 2017: Successful event provides far-reaching benefits

Over 200 members of the dredging community from 18 countries and 76 companies/organisations gathered at Ahoy Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, last week, for CEDA Dredging Days, the primary dredging event in the EMEA region. The dredging professionals who attended represented the entire cross-section of the field. The young, established and expert, all assembled to exchange the latest ideas, knowledge and best practice, at a packed event. In keeping with CEDA's remit, papers were of a high technical level however the event wasn't "all work and no play". There was reportedly a great atmosphere and there were plenty of opportunities for delegates to network with their peers.

Entitled "*Sustainable dredging – continued benefits*", the conference focused on dredging solutions that create essential infrastructure whilst also minimising the negative impacts on the natural and societal environment. Solutions discussed were notable for generating additional value for nature and society. This was in perfect harmony with the ambitions of the new CEDA/IADC book, publishing in 2018, which was introduced at the conference.

The core of the technical programme were the 20 peer-reviewed technical papers grouped into five sessions on: Environment and monitoring; Developments in instrumentation; Sustainable working methods and equipment; and Innovative solutions. The fifth, the academic session, included scientific papers on a range of subjects. Many of the papers were written by mixed teams of specialists, quite often as a result of different companies and countries working together.

Understanding Dredging

Further highlights in the packed programme included:

- A keynote by IADC president, Frank Verhoeven entitled “Dredging the industry’s mindset”.
- 7 fast-paced presentations in Young CEDA’s Pitch talks session
- A lively and highly engaging interactive session on contractual problems and how to avoid them designed and presented by the CEDA Dredging Management Commission
- 3 CEDA presentations on completed and ongoing work including: the CEDA Checklist for Successful Project Management (which launched at the conference); a CEDA information and position papers on beneficial use of dredged sediments (currently in preparation), and the joint book with IADC.

“CEDA offers a valuable, unique platform for the dredging industry. It creates great opportunities for everyone involved in dredging, regardless of their role or organisation, to meet and exchange ideas. A good example is the interactive session, like the one held during the CEDA Dredging Days 2017. Delegates work on a fictitious case which allows them to speak, openly and frankly about sensitive matters, without the burden of confidentiality required when in real project and contract situations. Events like the CEDA interactive sessions offer an insight into the interests, and the rationale of our counterparts in different organisations. It’s a great way to analyse and solve problems and disputes, in real life situations, without the misunderstandings or the potential for painful confrontations.”

Harry Zondag, Strategic Advisor Dredging, Rijkswaterstaat, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Netherlands

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nice moment in the proceedings is always the presentation of the IADC’s Young Authors’ Award. This year’s winner was Jordy Boone, Van Oord Dredging and Marine Contractors, for his paper ‘1DH Modelling of transport and sedimentation inside a hopper of a training suction dredger’.

Always with an eye on the future of the dredging profession, 20 promising graduates and post-graduates were funded to attend the event as part of the Young CEDA Student Programme.

A dredging exhibition complemented the programme of the technical sessions and the busy exhibition floor was the place where everyone mingled during the session breaks or simply relaxed with a coffee. This was also the scene for the popular CEDA-NL reception and the farewell drink on the last day. Cosy and friendly..... it was an ideal place to talk business, make new friends and re-connect with old ones.

During this year's pre-event technical visit to the Princess Beatrix Lock construction site, participants had the opportunity to see the largest monumental inland waterway lock in the Netherlands, at close quarters, as it underwent major expansion.

The technical sessions, dredging exhibition and the popular CEDA-Netherlands Reception, all combined to make it a successful event that will have far-reaching benefits for the industry.

Here's what delegates had to say:

"A top class event" Charles Wilsoncroft, HKA, UK.

"Dynamic, lively, truly enjoyable and useful" Olivier Marcus, Damen Dredging Equipment, speaking about the interactive session.

To read more about what the participants thought about CEDA Dredging Days visit www.DiscoverDredging.com.

Thanks to the supporters of CEDA Dredging Days 2017

The Board of CEDA wish to thank the many companies, and individuals, who supported this important event for the industry by contributing to the content, discussions and exhibition, and by taking the time out to attend. Their dedication and enthusiasm are essential in delivering events that are of value long after the last delegate has left.

The conference proceedings, including all presented papers, are available from the CEDA Secretariat (€ 95 for CEDA Members and € 129 for non-members). From 15 December 2017 CEDA members will get free access to all papers through the CEDA website: www.dredging.org (Click Resources > CEDA publications online > Conference Proceedings).

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Editor's info

Photos

More photos are available upon request.

Photo captions and credits

Credits: CEDA

- 1/ At the heart of the conference were the peer-reviewed presentations. Speakers had the full attention of the audience

- 2/Interactive session: the parties to the contract of the fictitious port dredging project, resembling real-life challenges, are in a bitter dispute. Working in small groups, the audience takes on the role of an external contract consultant
- 3/ Good discussions in the exhibition area

About CEDA Dredging Days

First organised in 1980, CEDA's trademark event, CEDA Dredging Days, has established itself as the primary international dredging conference in the CEDA region (Europe, Middle East and Africa). It is widely considered as an invaluable forum for leading researchers and industry experts to discuss and share dredging challenges, solutions and experiences.

CEDA Dredging Days 2017 was held in association with Europort 2017, the maritime exhibition for advanced technology. Ahoy Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

About the Central Dredging Association

Central Dredging Association (CEDA) is an established authority and the leading independent forum for the professional dredging community, and associated industries, in Europe, Africa and the Middle-East. It represents dredging professionals and organizations, from government, academia and business, in the region, and fosters and promotes the understanding and advancement of dredging to the wider community.

Drawing on the collective knowledge of its members, and as an impartial body, CEDA regularly gives expert advice to government and international regulatory bodies.

CEDA members are representative of consultancies, research and educational institutions, port authorities, government agencies, dredging contractors, designers and builders of dredging vessels, suppliers of ancillary equipment, and organizations providing a whole range of related services.

CEDA is part of the World Organization of Dredging Associations (WODA). CEDA's two sister associations, WEDA (Western Dredging Association) and EADA (Eastern Dredging Association), serve the Americas, and Asia, Australia and the Pacific region respectively. For further information visit: www.dredging.org