



Polite Laboyrie at a CEDA conference

Dredging in a changing world

Our industry will face some of its toughest challenges over the next decade. As a responsible industry, we must look to sustainable practices to realise the best outcomes, writes CEDA president **Polite Laboyrie**

► **Dredging is changing.** This is the theme of the forthcoming World Dredging Congress (WODCON) taking place in Copenhagen in 2022, organised by Central Dredging Association (CEDA). So much is implied by these simple three words.

By its very nature, dredging has a big influence on natural and socio-economic environments. The way we dredge is also changing.

In fact, in the 42 years of CEDA's and DPC's co-existence, we have seen many changes take place within the industry – some were introduced incrementally, others were fundamental changes that the industry was forced to adjust to.

One crucial change introduced incrementally at the beginning of the twenty-first century and which will drive dredging innovations for many years to come is the global shift towards sustainability.

CEDA and the International Association of Dredging Companies (IADC) collaborated on a guidebook – *Dredging for*

Sustainable Infrastructure – in which we proposed the following operational definition of sustainability for water infrastructure projects involving dredging, such as port development, river deepening, flood defence measures, and reclamations: “Sustainability is achieved in the development of infrastructure by efficiently investing the resources needed to support the desired social, environmental, and economic services generated by infrastructure for the benefit of current and future generations.”

In practical terms, this means that the sustainability of an infrastructure project can be enhanced by increasing the overall value of the project through the range of services it provides, reducing costs

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Polite Laboyrie, CEDA president

additional benefits for nature and society.

This century presents the professional dredging community with a variety of challenges and opportunities, some of which will be the most difficult it has had to overcome to date. Climate change continues, energy transition is a fact, the growing world population calls for more sustainable cities, and more food will be needed. It follows, therefore, that the demand for sustainable infrastructure will also increase.

From its birth, CEDA has been at the forefront of promoting and exchanging dredging-related science and technology ideas. Our founding Articles of Association in 1978 already listed the environment among the seven subjects of interest, although, at the time there was some resistance to it.

In 1991, the CEDA Environmental Steering Committee had its first meeting and since then there has been no turning back.

All of our information papers, best practice guidelines, and our guidebook bring together the latest, relevant knowledge from expert members of our community. They offer a road map to practitioners to take on the challenges and proactively look for opportunities that create added value for water infrastructure projects beyond their primary, functional objectives.

When CEDA puts its ‘Dredging is changing’ debate on the table at WODCON in 2022, it will bring us one step closer to realising truly sustainable operations, delivering further value to our community, our industry, society, and beyond.

For the past 42 years, DPC has been our supportive companion in our endeavours and I would like to express our thanks for that. □

Nico van Drimmelen remembered

Johan Pennekamp, chair of the CEDA-NL section, reflects on a dredging enthusiast and CEDA stalwart

► **Our dear companion in the dredging industry community,** Nico van Drimmelen, passed away on 28 March, just 13 days before his 77th birthday. With the death of Nico, we have lost a highly appreciated and active icon in our Dutch and international dredging industry community. He was still contributing until his very last day.

Nico started his professional career in the early 1970s, joining IHC Smit as a researcher at IHC-MTI where he gradually moved up to lead the department. In the 1980s, he headed the Design department at IHC in Kinderdijk, and by the end of the decade he was responsible for the Europe region.

During this time, he was involved in a manifold of managerial functions across IHC business units, including IHC Beaver Dredgers and IHC Dredgers.

In 1992, Nico extended his CEDA membership and became part of the

executive committee of the Dutch Section of the association, as a representative of the dredge-building sector. He held this position beyond his retirement in 2005 until 2007, making him one of the longest-serving members of our national CEDA-NL board. Nico also sat as an alternate member on the CEDA Board of Directors from 1992 until 1996, again representing the dredge-building sector.

Nico's intelligence, balance, and persuasive skills have always contributed enormously to our association. He was a monumental, encyclopedic historical reference, always motivated and enthusiastic to help where and whenever called for. The stories he could tell!

When he retired, Nico and his wife Imanda, left Kinderdijk to live in Zeelandic Flanders.

Nico van Drimmelen, a devoted CEDA member
CEDA: 5146453



Although he moved away, his commitment to CEDA did not diminish. Nico continued to attend all our CEDA-NL events, right up to our January meeting.

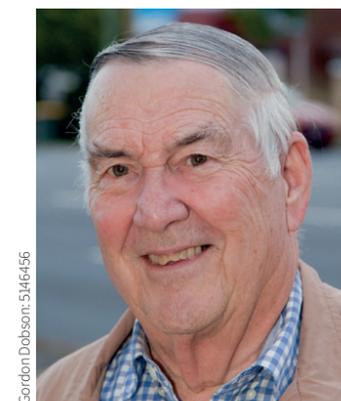
We express our sincere condolences to his wife, their two children, four grandchildren, and family. □

John Dobson's life in dredging

David Padman, EADA chairman, remembers his mentor and EADA founder

► **It is with deep regret that I** inform you that John Dobson passed away peacefully in Brisbane on 2 April. With his passing, we have lost an associate, doyen, mentor, and close friend from our industry.

Born John Edward Dobson on 5 September 1939 in Worthing, England, John migrated to Australia when he turned 21, after training and working as a civil engineer. He took up a job with the British Phosphate Commission, working from 1961 to 1976 on Ocean Island (now known as Banaba Island in Kiribati), Nauru, and Christmas Island. During this time, he met and married Cecily and they



John Dobson, founder of EADA and WODA

raised their three children Sharon, Gordon, and Chris on these islands. In 1976, the family

moved to Tasmania so that John could study environmental science at the University of Tasmania while Cecily reinvigorated her nursing career.

In 1978, they moved to Brisbane, where John worked with the Brisbane Port Authority. It was here that he became heavily involved in dredging and environmental activities. He managed to create a fine balance between the often opposing needs of the two. John had a long and storied career with the port and played a significant role in the development of the new port at Fisherman's Island.

John was one of the founding members of the Eastern

Dredging Association (EADA), who in 1983, along with Marangin Simatupang from Indonesia and Captain Abraham Kuruvilla from India, set up the organisation. John took over the helm in 2001, and in 2010, he handed it over to me. An excellent mentor and meticulous with fine details, he continued to play a supporting role as treasurer and chair of the EADA Technical Papers Committee. He was also a founding member of the World Organisation of Dredging Associations.

We convey our deepest condolences to John's children and their husbands and wives, and his two granddaughters. □