Dredging in a changing world

CEDA's and the International Dredging Association (IADA) have been driving the agenda for sustainable infrastructure in the twenty-first century, focusing on the need to balance the demand for sustainable infrastructure with the need to adapt to the changing world. This has resulted in a shift towards sustainability, with a focus on ecosystem services and social benefits. The sustainability of an infrastructure project can be assessed by looking at the outcomes, writes CEDA president Polite Laboyrie.

Our industry will face some of its toughest challenges over the next decade. As the world becomes more interconnected, our industry must adapt to the changing environment. The way we design and construct our infrastructure projects will have a significant impact on the natural and socio-economic environments. The way we approach sustainability will be crucial in ensuring that we create added value for water and society.

Sustainable infrastructure is an essential element of our industry's future. By embracing sustainable practices, we can ensure that our projects are not only economically viable but also environmentally sustainable. This requires a holistic approach to design and construction, with a focus on the long-term impacts of our projects.

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

Polite Laboyrie, CEDA president

Nico van Drimmelen remembered

Nico van Drimmelen, a devoted CEDA member

Our dear companion in the dredging industry community, Nico van Drimmelen, passed away on 26 March, just 13 days before his 77th birthday. With the death of Nico, we have lost a highly appreciated and active member in our Dutch and international dredging industry community. He was still contributing until very his last day.

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

During that time, he was involved in a manifold of managerial functions across HIC business units, including HBC Beaver Dredgers and HBC 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 dredging-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 dredging-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.

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 meetings.

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

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

It is with deep regret that I inform you that John Adam Dobson passed away peacefully in Brisbane on 2 April. With his passing, we have lost an associate, dean, 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 and, now known as Banana Island in Kiribati, Nauru, and Christmas Island. During this time, he met and married Cecily and they raised their three children Sharon, Gordon, and Chris in 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 Marangin Simatupang from Indonesia, set up the organisation. John took over the helm in 2005, and in 2010, he handed it over to me. An excellent mentor and mercurial 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.

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.

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Polite Laboyrie, CEDA president

John Dobson, founder of EADA and WODA

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