



Press release

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SUSTAINABILITY IN DREDGING WAS THE FOCUS AT CEDA DREDGING DAYS 2008

The role of dredging and maritime construction in sustainable development was the focus of this year's CEDA Dredging Days organised by the Belgian Section of CEDA (Central Dredging Association). The conference and exhibition took place in Antwerp, Belgium, 1-3 October 2008 and provided delegates with an excellent programme of technical and social events.

Under the theme '**Dredging facing sustainability**', presentations in six technical sessions addressed the key issues facing the industry, including climate change. On the subject of climate change, it was clear from the presentations that dredging and maritime construction have important and complex roles to play. On the one hand the profession can contribute to the fight by reducing CO2 emissions through the development, and use, of innovative dredging equipment and technology. It also has an important role in enabling the shift to renewable energy sources for instance through the construction of wind farms. On the other hand the industry will play a crucial role in our adaptation to the effects of climate change by for example protecting human life and valuable resources from flooding.

The role of dredging in restoring wetlands and in revitalising our estuaries was also extensively discussed. In his opening speech Freddy Aerts, Conference Chair, and Chairman of the Belgian Section of CEDA (Flemish Government), referred to the ProSes Scheldt Estuary 2010 development project and reminded delegates that "...it is possible to safeguard navigation possibilities in an economic manner and at the same time take the area's ecology into account".

Conference highlights included the two keynote speeches 'Can dredging improve ecosystem services to achieve sustainability?' by Prof. Patrick Meire and 'The dredging industry and the European port system – challenges and opportunities' by Prof. Theo Notteboom, both from the University of Antwerp. There was also a lively, and very constructive, panel discussion chaired by Tony Slinn, Editor-in-Chief of CEDA's official magazine, DPC. It focused on two key subjects: the long decision-making process hindering dredging and maritime construction works, and the inefficient use of expensive monitoring data.

Belgian CEDA member companies sponsored around 25 students to attend the conference and their presence was very welcome. In keeping with CEDA's aim to promote young professionals it was acknowledged, by the more experienced members, as a good way to encourage new entrants into the profession.

All in all, CEDA Dredging Days 2008 in Antwerp was a great success.

The presentations are available for conference participants and corporate members of CEDA online and will be made available to the public from 1 February 2009 on the conference's website (www.cedaconferences.org/dredgingdays2008).

CEDA is already preparing for its next Dredging Days for which the call for papers was issued in Antwerp. With the theme 'Dredging tools for the future', CEDA Dredging Days 2009 will further elaborate on the subject of dredging and sustainability with a special focus on dredging equipment and technology. For more information visit www.cedaconferences.org

For more details on CEDA's work please contact Anna Csiti, CEDA Secretariat, T: +31 (0)15 268 2575 E: csiti@dredging.org or visit www.dredging.org.

Notes to editors

Other highlights of CEDA Dredging Days 2008

In addition to the excellent presentations, the highlights of the three days were:

- The presentation by Polite Laboyrie, Chairman of CEDA's Environment Commission (CEC) with an update on CEC's work.
- The always busy dredging exhibition featuring the latest products and services of CEDA member companies.
- The well organised technical visit, sponsored by DEME and Jan De Nul, to the 600ha flood control area. The flood control uses revolutionary solutions combining protection against high waters with nature enhancement around the towns of Kruikebeke, Bazel and Rupelmonde.
- The sumptuous reception, and guided tour, at Antwerp's beautiful 16th century City Hall, sponsored by the City of Antwerp and its Port Authority. The hospitality was much appreciated, particularly as the City Hall stayed open, serving drinks and snacks, until the last four delegates left!
- The pub crawl combined with sightseeing sponsored by DEME. Thanks to the heavy rain showers that night the whole city centre was spotted with green umbrellas providing protection to conference participants walking from one pub to the next.

Proposed photo captions:

- Freddy Aerts, Conference Chair with students at the conference
- Freddy Aerts opening CEDA Dredging Days 2008
- Jos Claessens, Chairman of the Technical Papers Committee
- At the technical visit to the flood control area Kruikebeke-Bazel-Rupelmonde
- At the dredging exhibition
- CEDA Dredging days 2008 in session

All photos: Courtesy of Tony Slinn.

CEDA Dredging Days 2009: Dredging tools for the future

5 - 6 November 2009, the Conference Centre, Ahoy Rotterdam, the Netherlands

To be held in conjunction with Europort 2009 (3-6 November 2009).

www.cedaconferences.org/dredgingdays2009

About CEDA

The Central Dredging Association (CEDA) is an international professional membership organisation for all those involved in dredging related activities and who live or work in Europe, Africa, or the Middle East. CEDA provides an independent forum for the exchange of knowledge in fields related to dredging, maritime construction and dredged material management. Members are drawn from many fields and include consultants, research and educational institutes, port authorities, government agencies, dredging contractors, builders of dredging vessels, and suppliers of ancillary equipment. CEDA encompasses a wide range of disciplines and activities and does not represent the interests of any particular industry sector. (www.dredging.org)

Contact

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