

## Young CEDA's excursions inform on working in the dredging industry

Young CEDA is very active this spring to organise activities for young professionals and students and get them interested to work in the dredging industry.

Young CEDA Belgium organised an excursion in the Port of Antwerp. It was a perfect opportunity to get acquainted with the world of dredging



Figure 1: overview of AMORAS plant with its huge consolidation ponds

Inside the Port of Antwerp a wasteland was transformed into Europe's biggest sludge recycle plant: AMORAS.

Antwerp welcomes "Ultra Large Container vessels" of up to 15,000TEU such as MV Edith MEARSK and to assure a minimum water depth of 15.20m in the port, a lot of maintenance dredging is required. The environmental departments of Jan de Nul dredging and DEME have found a sustainable solution for the disposal of the dredged sludge. By a mechanical dewatering process and a huge storage capacity under controlled conditions, the sludge can be transformed into 'filter cakes' which could be used for clay granules, bricks or even road construction.

Young CEDA invited two universities (Gent and Leuven) for a tour around the dewatering plant and a boat trip inside the port to see some dredging equipment as well. Young professionals gave presentations about working in the dredging industry. Over 30 enthusiastic participants, all engineers-to-be, joined us on March 31 2014 for this excursion.

Young CEDA is active in informing and getting students and young professionals interested in working in the dredging industry. Two more events are planned for this spring;

- 2 June 2014: evening seminar in Delft for students from TU Delft and the Universities of Applied Sciences from Rotterdam and The Hague. The programme includes presentations on research for dredging equipment, the two-way interaction between scientific research and operational practice, working abroad and projects from design to realisation phases;
- 5 June 2014: excursion in the Port of Hamburg to explain on dredging in general and dredging activities in the port in order to assure the navigational depth. The treatment facility for dredged material METHA will be visited as well. The excursion will be concluded with a boat trip to accommodate informal discussions with professionals.

Check out DPC's next issue for more information about Young CEDA.



Figure 2: all listening to the AMORAS engineer who explains the functioning of the plant



Figure 3: dewatering press and transformation of sludge into 'filter cakes'



Figure 4: after the AMORAS plant visit, we embarked on a cruise and sailed through the port while the students get an opportunity to talk with “young” professionals of Jan De Nul, DEME and IMDC



Figure 5: not completely by surprise we passed by the Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger “Manzanillo II”



**Figure 6: another educational hour was needed to focus on the job. Different presentations were given about the Antwerp maintenance dredging project, worldwide dredging in an efficient way and the design-and-build solutions of future projects to ensure a healthy company strategy for European dredging companies**



**Figure 7: mission accomplished: students have learned something and are teased by the challenges in dredging: time for a beer and some fun**