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PRESS RELEASE

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CEDA's Iberian Conference showcased highly innovative solutions and pro-active approaches

At the end of October the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) co-hosted a conference, with the Portuguese Engineers Association (OE) in Lisbon. The CEDA Iberian Conference: *Dredging for sustainable port development*, had over 120 participants, and addressed key topics relevant to the success of port dredging and sediment management projects, with a focus on the Iberian Peninsula.

“Portuguese and Spanish professionals in the field of dredging and port construction initiated this event, inspired by increasing environmental and societal demands on the preparation and implementation of marine infrastructure projects. CEDA was delighted to accept the invitation to organise this unique gathering” – said Polite Laboyrie, CEDA President.

On behalf of the co-organiser, Mr Carlos Loureiro, OE Vice-President, extended a warm welcome to Lisbon, the home of OE. He stressed that the shared objectives, of the creation and dissemination of high-quality knowledge, made CEDA and OE ‘natural’ partners in presenting the event.

The conference started with a short introduction by Conference Chair, Stefan Aarninkhof, Professor of Coastal Engineering at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. The well-curated sessions featured 15 technical presentations by high-profile speakers from eight different countries. Conference participants were treated to a comprehensive programme which covered concept and strategies for sustainability; developments of ports and coasts; sediment management; and environmental management and monitoring.

Understanding Dredging

In addition, there was a special Young CEDA Pitch Talk session of 3 fast-paced and sharp presentations. Young professionals, representing Dravosa, HAL Maritime and Boskalis, had the opportunity to expose their ideas to an expert audience and get immediate feedback and encouragement.

Reflecting on the presentations Professor Aarninkhof highlighted the balanced nature of the contributions. He said *".. it was very pleasing that many of the talks presented highly innovative approaches, solutions and technologies including the application of the ecosystems services framework in practice; LNG fuelled hoppers; the airless overflow; operational environmental monitoring including modelling and the use of drones; and sustainable maintenance strategies for beaches and estuaries."*

The programme included a technical visit to Caparica beach hosted by the Portuguese Environment Agency. The Agency worked closely with the Port of Lisbon Authority to devise a dredging plan, using dredged sediments from maintenance dredging to successfully mitigate erosion problems on the beaches, and the visit was a great opportunity for participants to hear from those involved.

Participants were invited to capture in photos the concepts, ideas and approaches presented during the conference and the best pictures were entered into a photo competition organised by Young CEDA. In addition to adding an interactive element, the photo competition also sought to stimulate further thinking and discussion. Creators of the 10 shortlisted photos had the opportunity to pitch their work in one minute each. After that the audience voted.

'The coast is safe, I can relax', summarised the winning photo by Gerard van Raalte (GRA Consultancy) which stressed that sustainability is also about people. *"It is so typically you, Gerard, winning a Sustainable Coasts Photography Contest with a picture without even a small stretch of water on it!"* said Stefan Aarninkhof when he presented the prize.

"This was an outstanding conference, thank you all for contributing to it" said Professor Aarninkhof in his closing words. He added *"The presentations, the lively discussions as well as the technical visit and the photo contest, clearly demonstrated that going beyond the scope of the traditional dredging project is becoming a growing movement. Project stakeholders, including promoters and executers, and also manufacturers, consultants and environmental NGOs, are increasingly seeking and achieving innovative partnerships. In particular the achievements in beneficially re-using sediments arising from dredging projects for creating and/or enhancing wetlands, valuable habitats for many birds and with high recreational value are truly remarkable."*

Needless to say, true to the tradition, the conference offered plenty of opportunities outside the formal sessions for participants to 'talk about business' and relax and have a good time together.

CEDA wishes to thank the following organisations for their much valued support: Principal sponsors - Boskalis, Damen, Dravosa, Dredging International, Etermar, HMT Hahlbrock, Royal IHC, and Seth. Standard sponsors: Porto de Aveiro, Porto de Lisboa, WW Consultores de Hidráulica e Obras Marítimas, S.A and technical visit host: Portuguese Environment Agency.

The continuing support of industry sponsors shows the value that the dredging community places on these events and CEDA is pleased that it could offer this unique conference to delegates at an affordable rate.

Conference presentations are available to CEDA members on the CEDA website, (Resources>Presentations>Conferences, seminars). A selection of great photos is also available on the site (CEDA>Photo gallery)

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Editor's info

Conference Essentials

Title: CEDA Iberian conference: Dredging for Sustainable Port Development

Date: 27-28 October 2016

Venue: Portuguese Engineers Association, Lisbon, Portugal

Technical programme: 4 sessions with 15 presentations plus 3 Young CEDA pitch talks

Technical visit: Costa da Caparica

Social programme: conference dinner

Registration fee: € 98.00 (incl. participation, conference material, two lunches, conference dinner and technical visit)

Registration and detailed information: www.cedaconferences.org/lisbon2016

Photo captions

- Over 120 dredging professionals participated in CEDA's first Iberian conference in Lisbon, Portugal.
Credit: CEDA
- The winning photo: "The coast is safe, I can relax".
Credit: Gerard van Raalte

- On the Caparica beach. Celso Pinto of the Portuguese Environment Agency explains how using sediment from maintenance dredging of Port of Lisbon helps to combat coastal erosion
- From moment one there was a “good buzz”.
- The organising committee (l to r): Teresa Sa Pereira(Port of Lisbon), Rita Ramos (Port of Lisbon), Stefan Aarninkhof (Conference Chair, Delft University of Technology), Anna Csiti (CEDA Secretariat), Alberto del Pino (Dravosa), Polite Laboyrie (CEDA President, Witteveen+Bos)

Photos in larger sizes can be downloaded from:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/100638191/CEDALisbonConference-Photos.zip>

About the conference co-organisers

Central Dredging Association (CEDA) is an internationally recognised, and independent professional association. It provides an accessible platform for the exchange of knowledge and an authoritative reference point for impartial technical information. CEDA actively strives to contribute towards sustainable development by strongly recommending working with nature. CEDA members are corporations, professionals and stakeholders, involved in a diversity of activities related to dredging and marine construction. CEDA represents the common interest of all fields related to dredging and marine construction and does not promote the interest of any particular industry sector or organisation. For more information visit: www.dredging.org

The **Ordem dos Engenheiros (OE)**, Portuguese Engineers Association) is a public professional association that dates back to the 19th century, being the heiress of the Portuguese Association of Civil Engineers, founded in 1868. Its main mission is to contribute to the progress of engineering, stimulating the efforts of its members in scientific, professional and social areas, as well as complying with the rules of professional ethical behaviour.

The OE is the only Portuguese institution that can assign the professional title of Engineer, granting titles and levels of professional qualification. Throughout its history, this professional association has been a permanent ally of quality, through the defence of demanding higher education based on accuracy, as well as competent professional practices and respectful of ethics. For more information visit www.ordemengenheiros.pt.