

## Introducing Young CEDA

By Daan Rijks, Chairman, January 2010

Young CEDA was formally introduced during the Dredging Days 2009 and has its roots in the Development Committee that was set up end of 2006. This Committee successfully stimulated younger members to become active participants within CEDA. As the new chairman, I am proud to take up the challenge to continue and expand the work of the Development Committee in a brand new "Young CEDA" jacket. Together with the YC Commission, we aim to give Young CEDA a fixed and visible place within the CEDA organisation, making sure the CEDA Board remains on its toes, but at the same time bringing in as many activities and fun as possible.

During the CEDA Days in November 2009, I presented the new Young CEDA Mission Statement and an ambitious programme for the coming years. We made the programme during the last Young CEDA Commission meeting in September in Antwerp where we came up with many ideas on activities and information portals for the younger CEDA members. We hope to increase our and their involvement in CEDA by providing an easy access platform to voice ideas and suggestions within the organisation.

Some of the activities we have planned are:

- Create a Young CEDA page/section on the CEDA website;
- Create a Young CEDA mailing list (need your input for this!!);
- Organise meetings for both young and "more experienced" CEDA members with young speakers on subjects relevant for young professionals;
- Organise technical visits in cooperation with e.g. Young PIANC;
- Delegate a Young CEDA representative to each of the CEDA Commissions/Committees to assist and allow for a direct input of Young CEDA ideas and suggestions within the Commissions and Committees.

I expect 2010 to be a busy year in which we will be setting up and organizing the above mentioned activities. But we need your help to do this and encourage all CEDA members under the age of 40 to write me an e-mail at [d.c.rijks@boskalis.nl](mailto:d.c.rijks@boskalis.nl) with name, age, company, position and address so that I can create a YC mailing list. Furthermore, we will be posting regular updates in the digital CEDA newsletter, so keep an eye out for the dates of the upcoming Young CEDA events.



***Typical setting for a Young CEDA meeting with refreshments and good weather!***

Back L to R: Denis Seurnyck, Joanne Ronald, Bart Verboomen (now member of the Board), Kathleen De Wit, Daan Rijks (chairman), Leann Nipius

Front L to R: Loek Verheijen, Yi-Bin Shan

*Not in the picture: Andreas Wurpts, Björn Gäbe, Martin van Ommen, Klavs Bungaard*

**Mission statement**

Young CEDA dedicates itself to creating a platform for Young members to express and present themselves whilst allowing for the opportunity to interact with older or more experienced fellow dredging enthusiasts and colleagues. This platform creates a mutual benefit for both younger and more senior members.

Furthermore, Young CEDA will function as a challenger and critical observer of the Board and its' decisions. Where possible, Young CEDA will offer new ideas and be available for input and feedback on organization (Dredging days, seminars, national meetings), procedures and decisions.

Above all, Young CEDA will help carry out the CEDA mission and objectives and be ambassadors for the dredging profession in general.

**Objectives**

Young CEDA has the following objectives (in order of priority)

1. Actively attract, involve and bind young members in and to the CEDA organization;
2. Organize activities for young members such as excursions, network opportunities and presentations;
3. Initiate and promote new ideas of Young members to the Board and the Commissions;
4. Challenge and be available for second opinions on issues for the Board and Commissions;
5. Have fun!!