CENTRAL DREDGING ASSOCIATION

AND THE

WESTERN DREDGING ASSOCIATION

Press release

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CEDA – WEDA International Seminar "Connecting the World through Dredging" is very well received in Panama

With the theme "Connecting the World through Dredging", the two sister associations, the Central Dredging Association (CEDA)- serving Africa, Europe and the Middle-East - and the Western Dredging Association (WEDA) - North, Central, and South America - organised their first joint international seminar on sustainable dredging and maritime construction on 2 March 2009, in Panama City, Panama.

The one-day event was sponsored and hosted by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), in its Ascanio Arosemena Complex. Over 110 experts from 10 "CEDA and WEDA countries" representing a broad spectrum of dredging and maritime fields registered for the event.

Delegates from outside Panama appreciated the unique opportunity to hear first hand about the Panama Canal Expansion Programme. In two technical sessions, the ACP, the autonomous government agency in charge of managing the Panama Canal, and Dredging International, the firm selected by the ACP to dredge the Pacific sea entrance, gave in-depth presentations covering various aspects of the project.

CEDA and WEDA are the only independent international associations in their respective geographical areas whose sole interests are dredging and marine construction and that provide a platform for professional groups engaged in these fields. True to this nature of CEDA and WEDA, the other two sessions included talks on a range of subjects given by project owners, dredging contractors, consultants and regulators.,

According to ACP employees in the audience, the presentations proved timely and relevant for their work at the Panama Canal. "Some of the topics presented are issues that we are in the process of investigating, discussing and learning about," said one of the participants.

The reception after the seminar gave an excellent opportunity to continue discussions and a friendly atmosphere.

The organisers, CEDA and WEDA are grateful to the ACP for its support and to the co-sponsors, Dredging International de Panama and the magazine, Dredging and Port Construction for sponsoring the event.

The presentations are available for conference participants and corporate members of CEDA online and will be made available to the public from 1 July 2009 on the conference's website (www.cedaconferences.org/panama2009).

The joint meeting of the CEDA and WEDA Environment Commission took place right after the seminar, kindly hosted by the ACP. The two groups regularly exchange information but joint meetings are a very rare occasion. Closer links between the two commissions and possible joint projects were also discussed.

Notes to editors

Proposed photo captions:
- ACP Executive Vice President of Engineering and Program Management Jorge L. Quijano opening the conference.
- The two presidents: from left to right, Anders Jensen, President of CEDA (Femern Baelt, Denmark), Bill Hanson, President WEDA (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, USA)
- Participants of the joint meeting of the CEDA-WEDA Environment Commissions on the ACP premises.

About CEDA and WEDA
Under the umbrella of the World Dredging Association (WODA), the two sister associations the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) and Western Dredging Association (WEDA) are international professional membership organisations for all those involved in dredging related activities. CEDA covers those who live or work in Africa, Europe or the Middle East whilst WEDA covers North, Central, and South America. These organisations provide 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 and WEDA encompass a wide range of disciplines and activities and do not represent the interests of any particular industry sector. Their aims are:

- To promote the education and instruction of its members and others concerned with dredging and related activities
- To generate and disseminate reliable, quality information on dredging and associated activities
- To develop or contribute to the development of guidelines relating to good practice and environmental protection and enhancement
- To stimulate the initiation of, and/or to support, research relevant to dredging activities
- To be pro-active in providing expertise in relevant policy-making activities
- To enhance the public understanding of dredging and recognition of its contribution to society

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