

A learning experience

Eager to know more about dredging, land reclamation, the environment or equipment? Ask the IADC. Its secretary general, **René Kolman**, gives *IHS Maritime* an update

Dredging contractors are often brought in when a project's design has been decided but before much thought has been given to whether the dredging expectations are feasible or cost-effective.

This unfortunate fact prompted some soul searching at the International Association of Dredging Companies (IADC), which led to the realisation the industry needed to be proactive in educating clients, consultants, and other parties. Informed clients and

stakeholders are clearly better partners when tackling large-scale dredging projects.

International seminar

That belief has driven the IADC to make teaching a centrepiece of its activities. Its primary educational tool for more than 20 years has been the International Seminar on Dredging and Reclamation, which has been developed – and is taught and regularly updated – by experts from the

world's foremost dredging companies.

The week-long course is given twice a year: once at IHE-UNESCO in Delft, the Netherlands (see *DPC* August 2013) and once in Singapore in co-operation with that country's National University (NUS). In addition, the programme is available on demand and has been presented at the request of third parties in locations such as Abu Dhabi, Brazil, and South Africa.

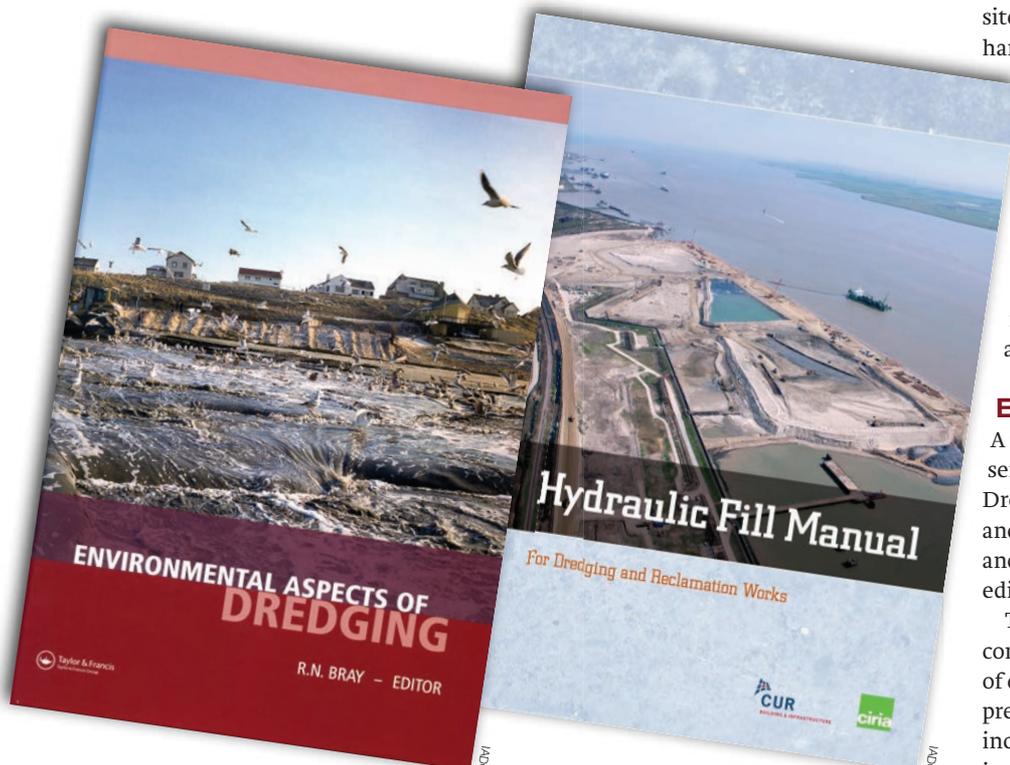
More than 1,000 young professionals have attended the course, which also features a site visit to a dredging project – a unique hands-on experience. The next seminar is scheduled for 27-31 October 2014 at the Grand Park City Hall Hotel, Singapore ([www.iadc-dredging.com/263/seminars,-presentations-and-webinars/seminar-on-dredging-and-reclamation-\(singapore\)](http://www.iadc-dredging.com/263/seminars,-presentations-and-webinars/seminar-on-dredging-and-reclamation-(singapore))).

To ensure personal attention, the group size is limited to 36 participants, so interested parties are encouraged to enrol as early as possible.

EAD course

A natural outgrowth of the reclamation seminar is the Environmental Aspects of Dredging course, created jointly by the IADC and Central Dredging Association (CEDA) and based on the book of the same name edited by Nick Bray.

The course responds to rising global concern about sustainability and the impacts of dredging on nature. The seminar has been presented at various worldwide venues, including most recently at HR Wallingford in the UK, and is now being offered as a



two-day postgraduate programme by the Stichting PostAcademisch Onderwijs (PAO) in Delft: Training Course on the Environmental Aspects of Dredging on 24-25 November 2014 (http://pao-tudelft.nl/Cursussen/0/3003/Environmental_Aspects_of_Dredging.html).

Each participant will receive a copy of Bray's classic reference work. The course is targeted at consultants in dredging-related industries from bodies such as municipalities, district water boards, port authorities, and contractors.

Hydraulic fill

Another co-operative effort between the IADC and the Stichting PAO has resulted in the Course on The Hydraulic Fill Manual,

which covers the initiation, design, and construction of hydraulic fill projects as described in the recently published *Hydraulic Fill Manual*, edited by engineer Jan van 't Hoff.

Without proper hydraulic fill and suitable equipment, major infrastructure projects such as ports and airports or industrial and housing projects cannot be realised. The course will be on 20-21 November 2014 (http://pao-tudelft.nl/Cursussen/21/3002/The_Hydraulic_Fill_Manual.html).

The impressive roster of dredging professionals presenting the programme includes Jan van 't Hoff, Bertien Vermeulen (Jan De Nul), T Fedor Meulenkamp (Boskalis), Patrick Mengé (Deme), F Rik Bisschop (Arcadis), Richard de Jager (Boskalis), and Joop van der Meer (Van Oord).

Online access

The IADC has also expanded its educational initiatives to take advantage of the internet. Two webinars were presented in 2013: one on hydraulic fill and a second on ecology and dredging. Both can be viewed at the IADC website. The next webinar – on dredging equipment – is scheduled for the third quarter of 2014 (<https://www.iadc-dredging.com/269/seminars,-presentations-and-webinars/webinars/>).

Dredging is a fast-moving, innovative industry and continual education is critical. The IADC is dedicated to reaching a broad spectrum of stakeholders and providing opportunities for professional development. **DPC**

» www.iadc-dredging.com

The inside scoop on dredging equipment

When to choose a trailer, cutter, backhoe, or ... The IADC's executive summaries give insights for decision-makers, says **René Kolman**

The speed at which dredging vessels are evolving is astonishing. For hundreds of years people cleaned out canals with a shovel. Nowadays the major private dredging companies continuously invest in R&D to create state-of-the-art equipment that can go to incredible depths, work in all kinds of weather, and build new land in remote areas.

Keeping pace with these developments is akin to trying to cycle the Tour de France uphill. To help sort out these advances, the IADC has developed *Facts About* brochures. Recently, the series has focused on innovations in the design and efficiency of dredging vessels.

A quick read

The IADC is well aware of the overwhelming amount of information on the internet – and the limited time in a working week. Yet some information is crucial to decision-making. Without it the chance of cost overruns and outright errors increases greatly.

Three booklets – *Facts About Water Injection Dredging*, *Facts About Trailing Suction Hopper Dredgers*, and *Facts About Cutter-Suction Dredgers* – have been released in the last half year. Coming up next is *Facts About Backhoes*.

Why should a client, consultant, or stakeholder want to know about these dredging vessels? Because each has very

different characteristics. Selecting suitable equipment will support the most successful outcomes. It will contribute to doing the job responsibly and safely, minimising risk and increasing cost-efficiency.

Selecting the appropriate equipment, however, is complex and influenced by many factors such as the location of the dredging site or the distance between the borrow area, where sediment is being mined, and the placement site, where the land is being built.

What type of soil is being dredged: rock, sand, clay, cohesive or non-cohesive sediment? What about the weather? In

extreme conditions some vessels are less stable than others.

Environmental impacts can also affect your choice, as with highly sensitive areas containing coral reefs or where environmental dredging windows to protect marine life must be respected. Choosing the right plant for the job can mean the difference between sustainable dredging and creating problems for future generations.

To find these and other four-page *Facts About* executive summaries, go to the IADC website and click on publications.

» www.iadc-dredging.com

