

# International Seminars on Dredging and Reclamation: An Update

The success and growth of the IADC Seminars has become legendary in dredging circles. Each year professionals from a wide variety of countries enrol for a week-long intensive “crash course” in dredging and reclamation and return to their home countries with a deepened understanding and respect for this specialised field of engineering.

To look back briefly: In 1993 the International Association of Dredging Companies (IADC) and the International Institute of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (IHE) joined forces to present the first International Seminar on Dredging and Reclamation in Delft, The Netherlands. The seminar, presented by professionals from IADC member companies, formed a complete unit within a year-long graduate level study programme at IHE. A course manual was especially developed, as well as a format for site visits and other hands-on activities.

*Pictured here in a classroom at IHE in Delft, a group of international students enjoyed the IADC Seminar on Dredging and Reclamation from March 18-22 2002. The seminar is scheduled to be given again in October 2002 in Singapore.*

## Singapore, Buenos Aires, Egypt

Such was the enthusiasm for the programme that the IADC Board of Directors decided to present this seminar in various cities worldwide on a regular basis. Given the intensity of dredging activities in the Far East, the IADC Board decided that offering this course in Asia would be an extremely useful tool for broadening the base of information about dredging and creating an atmosphere of consensus and cooperation.

Singapore, with its central position in the Asian region, was a logical choice. IADC sought, and found, excellent partners in this region – the Applied Research Corporation (ARC) and the National University of Singapore (NUS). In January 1995, the seminar was presented for the first time outside of Europe. To the delight of organisers, the seminar in Singapore was met as well with great enthusiasm, with participants attending not only from Singapore but from Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries in the region and beyond.

Since then the IADC Seminar on Dredging and Reclamation has become a fixed item in the IADC annual





*An important part of the course is a site visit. The group is seen here at the harbour of Rotterdam on their way to board the cutter suction dredger seen in the background.*

schedule and has also found other venues in other countries. In October 1997 the seminar was “exported” to South America and was organised for the first time in Buenos Aires, Argentina in association with the Universidad Nacional de La Plata and Estudio de Ingenieria Hidráulica S.A. There too participants from all over the area – including Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and Argentina – attended, and the seminar was again given in October 1999.

Also in 1999 the IADC was asked by the European Union to organise a seminar in Ismailia, Egypt. In this case, the programme was extended to 10 days and the IADC invited outside lecturers from IAPH, HR Wallingford, FIDIC, World Bank and others to participate.

In the last two years, the seminar has continued to be presented in Delft and in Singapore to young professionals who work in related fields and wish to increase their knowledge of dredging in order to work more ably with dredging project managers.

As is appropriate to a growing, dynamic industry the seminar programme has been updated and the manual which each participant receives has been renewed. New equipment and state-of-the-art techniques are included. The underlying principle, however, remains the same: that a well-executed dredging project has

positive effects on an area’s economy, its environment and the quality of life of its residents. And the Seminar continue to reflect IADC’s commitment to education, to encouraging young people to enter the field of dredging, and to improving communications and understanding about dredging throughout the world.

### **The Seminar in Brief**

To optimise the chances of the successful completion of a project, it is important that from the start contracting parties fully understand the requirements of a dredging project. The five-day course is divided into two types of presentations:

- lectures by experts in the field and
- workshops, partly conducted on-site in order to give the “students” hands-on experience.

Amongst the subjects covered are:

- the development of new ports and maintenance of existing ports;
- project phasing (identification, investigation, feasibility studies, design, construction, maintenance);
- descriptions of types of dredging equipment and boundary conditions for their use;
- state-of-the-art dredging techniques as well as environmentally sound techniques;
- pre-dredging investigations, designing and estimating from the contractor’s view;
- costing of projects and types of contracts such as charter, unit rates, lump sum and risk-sharing agreements.



*Learning can be fun: Participants and lecturers enjoy an informal evening together with a reception and dinner.*



*A participant places his tender in the box: Calculating the cost of a dredging project is one of the important skills that is taught during the coursework.*

*A trophy is awarded to the team with the winning tender.*



An important feature of the seminars is a trip on a trailing suction hopper or cutter to visit a nearby dredging project being executed in the given geographical area. This gives the participants the opportunity of seeing dredging equipment in action and gaining a better understanding of the extent of a dredging activity.

During these seminars participants receive a comprehensive course book which includes a reference list of relevant literature in the field. At week's end each person is presented with a Certificate of Achievement from the IADC in recognition of their completion of the course. A reception held for the students, lecturers and IADC representatives provides an amicable close to an intensive learning experience.

The need for education in dredging both within the profession and for lay people who come in contact with dredging continues to be imperative. Too often misunderstandings arise between the public, dredging companies and government agencies. Raising the level of knowledge about the dredging industry can only act as a positive force in ensuring that dredging, with the highest quality and adherence to international guidelines, treaties and safety standards will continue.

To enrol in this year's seminar in Singapore, see page 32 of this issue of *Terra*. For further information about the venues for courses in 2002 and 2003 please contact the IADC Secretariat in The Hague.