

DREDGING INDUSTRY LOSES AN ICON



The international dredging fraternity bid farewell to a long serving member early this month. John Dobson, a founding member of Eastern Dredging Association (EADA) passed away peacefully on 2nd April 2020 in Brisbane Australia aged 81.

Mr. Dobson was instrumental in raising the profile of the industry as an essential component of coastal infrastructure development in the Asia Pacific area at a time when environmental laws were tightening.

Born in the United Kingdom and trained as a civil engineer, he migrated to Australia in the early 1960s and spent 15 years with the British Phosphate Commission in Kiribati, Nauru and Christmas Island. After spending some time in Tasmania where he studied Environmental Science at the University of Tasmania, he moved to Brisbane in 1978 to take up a post with Port of Brisbane. He had an illustrious career with the port being involved in several major development projects including the landmark Fisherman's Island Terminal.

In 1983, Mr. Dobson together with Capt. Abraham Kuruvilla and Mr. Simatupang established EADA which went on to become one of the sister organisation of the World Dredging Association (WODA) together with Central Dredging Association (CEDA) and Western Dredging Association (WEDA). He was the Chairman of EADA from 2001 until 2010 and thereafter became the treasurer.

Capt. K. Subramaniam, General Manager of Port Klang Authority and Secretary General of EADA has fond memories of Mr. Dobson. "I first met John 1995 when EADA and Port Klang Authority jointly organised a dredging seminar in Kuala Lumpur. He will be remembered for his penchant for details whether in technical matters especially in Conference Papers Committee or event organisation which he was heavily involved in when the World Dredging Congress were hosted in the EADA region. He was also an excellent mentor in guiding member companies in dealing with dredging and environmental issues providing sound advice and enjoying cordial relationship with national dredging associations throughout the region. We'll all miss him dearly" said Capt Subramaniam in conveying his condolences to the family.

