India plans to overhaul dental education system

Daniel Zimmermann

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: The Dental Council of India has recently announced the introduction of changes to the country’s deficient dental education system. According to Council President Dr Anil Kohli, who spoke to dental graduates of the Sri Ramakrishna Dental College and Hospital in Coimbatore in September, the Council will be investigating the accreditation standards for graduate and postgraduate dental courses, as well as continuing dental education and clinical fellowship programmes. Other issues such as CE recognition in India and abroad will also be reviewed.

India has the largest number of dental schools and students in the world but the quality of dental education has deteriorated recently, especially in economically under-developed areas. In addition, many graduates are forced to quit dentistry owing to limited career options.

Dr Kohli said that the implementation of the changes will take several years to complete and that they are needed to improve the quality of dentistry in the country and to attract more students from foreign countries. He also stressed the need for a national oral-health policy.

“Our own figures show that only four to five per cent of the population visit a dentist. We’ll have to look at this aspect as the next frontier of dental care in India if we are going to provide fruitful employment to our fresh graduates,” he added.

Implant group in AP goes online

Daniel Zimmermann

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: The International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) has recently launched a new website for its members in the Asia Pacific region. The site, which offers services in English, Japanese and Chinese, is supposed to help Asian members of the ICOI to communicate with their respective offices in Shenzhen and Hong Kong, as well as to complete memberships, Fellowship, Masterships and Diplomate applications in their native language, the organisation has announced in a press release.

The ICOI currently has component societies in Korea and China and affiliate societies in Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, India, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. Approximately 2,000 implant specialists from Asia are members of the ICOI.

The organisation has also announced a new partnership with the Chinese Stomatological Association to provide better dental and implant education to dental professionals in China. Expected to be finalised at the American Lifestyles Expo in Hangzhou later this month, the initiative titled “Smile and Chewing Technology” was created to promote how dental care and implant technology could improve the quality of life of Chinese people, according to ICOI officials. It will be supported by industry giants like Johnson & Johnson, Nobel Biocare and Yoshida Dental.

Founded in 1972, the ICOI is one of the world’s largest organisations for dental implantology. It also provides continuing dental implant education through a number of symposiums and workshops. The organisation also publishes Implant Dentistry, a publication designed to keep members abreast of the latest research and clinical concepts as well as numerous ICOI activities and those of their component and affiliate societies.