Global trends in focus of World Dental Forum

Dental laboratory giant invited to Mainland China and Macao

Daniel Zimmermann

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: Affiliates of Modern Dental Laboratory (MDL) have recently met during the World Dental Forum in Shenzhen and Macao in China. The event also saw more than 200 dentist from Europe, North America and Asia gathering for three days of learning and discussing new trends in the global dental industry. Chinese dental industry representatives and other professionals including the dean of Hong Kong’s Faculty of Dentistry Prof. Professor Lakshman Samaranayake attended the meeting.

MDL is one of the largest providers of dental restorations in China and pioneer for the outsourcing of manufacturing which has become an increasing trend in Europe and even more in the United States.

According to Chinese lab consultant Ma Yun Xiu, there are now more than 8,000 dental labs of different sizes in China alone of which 100 are able to provide qualified services for clients in overseas. MDL has been producing ISO 13485:2003 certified dental work for dentists and patients in the US from its main lab in Shenzhen since 1976. The company also says to maintain the largest dental technology school worldwide with a staff of 3,000.

“It was thrilling to bring a group of dentists from the US to Modern Dental Laboratory during the World Dental Forum, allowing them to see firsthand how worldwide dentistry is positively reaching US dentists and patients today,” said Patrick Tessier, CEO of Modern Dental Laboratory USA. “Many of the doctors told me that what stood out for them during the tour is that there is a quality check after every process, not just at the final restoration.”

MDL said that the company will held its next Forum in conjunction with the centennial celebrations of the University of Hong Kong in 2012.

Displaced dental workers given help

The Filipino Department of Labor and Employment has announced that it will provide financial and livelihood assistance to the 50 dental technicians left unemployed by the closure of the lab Prosthetic Laboratories, Inc. to the 50 dental technicians left unemployed by the closure of a Manila lab in August. It also said to have teamed up with the National Association of Dental Prosthetic Laboratories, Inc. to seek training opportunities and possible future employment for the rest of the 400 workers in the Philippines and abroad.

The facility concerned was closed after the US owner, who also runs operations in Vietnam, declared bankruptcy and left unpaid debts. The lab has been producing dental replacements, including crowns, bridges and dentures for clients in the Philippines and abroad since 1995.

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First Afro-American takes presidency

The American Dental Association has elected Dr Raymond F. Gist, a dentist from Flint, Michigan, as its new president. Gist is the first African-American to hold the organization’s highest elective office. He announced to focus his attention on membership outreach and advocacy efforts that will have specific appeal to young dentists.

India, Malaysia agree to free trade

India and Malaysia have agreed on a new free trade deal that will take effect in mid-2011. The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement covers trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation. It is expected to be signed by end of January next year, according to a joint statement.

Extra

The latest news from the FDI head office

Indian edu standards under scrutiny

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: Dental education in India faces a major overhaul, as the Dental Council of India (DCI) is considering the revision of current regulations. In a public note released in September, the organization, which regulates dentistry and dental education, urged dental professionals nationwide to review a number of suggestions regarding the manner in which to raise educational standards, including the reduction of seats in dental colleges and reviewing the clinical acumen of dentists every ten years.

The number of private dental colleges in India has skyrocketed lately, which has raised concerns about falling standards and the employability of future dental graduates. The DCI previously rejected applications for over 40 new colleges and requested state health ministers halt registration or reduce the number of seats at these colleges according to vacant positions available.

New products

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