FDI Treasurer attends WMA Assembly

FDI Treasurer, Dr Tin Chun Wong, represented the FDI at October’s World Medical Assembly (WMA) Assembly in Seoul, Korea. The topic of this year’s four-day WMA Assembly was “Health and Human Rights”. Dr Wong made a presentation to the WMA Committee on Medical Ethics on “Oral Health and Human Rights”. The session was opened to all delegates. Dr Wong emphasised to the FDI Committee and those in attendance that oral health is a basic human right. She further explained the links between oral health and general health by providing examples related to diabetes, heart disease and premature low birth weight of babies. Dr Wong also promoted the work of the FDI in its area to support oral health as a right for all through examples of the Federal Union’s efforts in global conferences, such as the 2004 Nairobi Conference, the promotion of fluoride and FDI’s Policy Statements.

The FDI is honoured to have been invited to the WMA Assembly and thanks Dr Wong for representing the Federation. The WMA is a partner of the FDI through the World Health Professions Alliance.

Message from the president

I am sure that every practising dentist sincerely believes that they are members of a respected health profession. But the oral health care environment is changing rapidly and I wonder how the public views dentists, whether they focus on spa services, tooth whitening and travel packages for dental tourism. It might seem that dentistry is a privilege and not a right.

It is in order for us to establish the dentist/patient relationship of trust, critical to successful health promotion and treatment of oral disease, it is essential that the public perceives dentistry as a profession and not merely as a vocation or trade. I believe that the main value of a strong national dental association is in ensuring that dentists are able to conduct themselves as health care professionals rather than simply suppliers of services. The formula for success is not a simple one but rather a combination of factors including health promotion initiatives, it is easy to imagine a once respected profession being viewed as simply another purveyor of services. Ethical practice should be defined by our best collective efforts and not just the self-interest of a few individuals.

Although it is unfortunate that the existence of a strong dental association is still only a dream in some countries, the FDI offers help to remedy this situation. Our head office staff, senior officers, Communications and Member Support Committee and established FDI association members all have the interest and ability to help a fledgling association become the main source of support for the dental profession. Assistance with association management, organisation of continuing education programs, policy statements and member services such as tobacco cessation strategies are just a few of the areas where we can help.

Even in countries where dentists have long benefitted from their dental associations, enthusiasm, hard work and commitment are required to maintain the momentum to preserve dentistry as a profession. Congratulations to thousands of colleagues worldwide who work to provide excellent services to professional associations for practising dentists. To those functioning without the support of a strong dental organisation, we can help – please ask us!

Dr Burton Conrad
FDI President

FDI sponsors CE programme in Francophone Africa

Current Therapies in Periodontal Health

Forty-two dentists, from both the private and public sector, attended the Continuing Education (CE) programme sponsored by the FDI in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The attendees represented 85% of the dentists of Burkina Faso and also included others from Cote d’Ivoire, Niger and Senegal. The CE programme, which took place 16-17 October, was a part of the “Prémisses journées Dentaires du Burkina Faso”.

The CE programme was presented in the form of a two-day workshop, titled “Current Therapies in Periodontal Health”. It was presented by Dr R. Strauch from the University of Lyon in France. He focused on existing approaches to periodontal disease treatment in the context of an overall treatment plan, taking into consideration factors such as classification data, aetiology, care of the patient during the initial phase, HPV and periodontal health. In addition, two hands-on workshops were conducted, where attendees practiced incisions and surgical sutures and radiological assessment. A series of lectures were organised for the congress, amongst which were an oral health awareness day in nine schools and a separate oral health awareness day for the public. All the events were broadcasted by the Burkina Faso central television channels and press.

During the congress, the Scientific-Practical Conference of the Association des Chirurgiens-Dentistes du Burkina Faso (ACDB) was held. All the realised activities were highly and positively evaluated by the participants of the congress. Dr Yannougo Isdooum, President of ACDB, praised the delegates for taking time off to update themselves and commended the efforts of the FDI, the Groupement des Associations Dentaires Francophones, partners of the congress and the CE programme, and the organising committee for bringing up a stimulating and enlightening convention.

As reported by Prof Denis Bourgeois, FDI Co-Programme Manager for Africa.
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FDI prepares for 2010 Congress in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

Delegation including FDI President, Councillors and head office representatives visit congress site

An FDI delegation, invited by the 2010 FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) local organizing committee, Associação Brasileira de Odontologia (ABO), visited the congress city during ABO’s International Dental Congress, XV CIOBA. During this preparation phase, every congress event was reviewed. After nearly a week of seeing what, where and how things happen in Salvador da Bahia, the expert committee was delighted with what they experienced and was pleased with the hospitality from the people of Bahia and their interest and willingness to help and accommodate visitors. In addition to visiting various sites for congress activities, the FDI delegation also met with the Chief of the State Government Office, Mr. Fernando Roth Schmidt, who reassured Bahia’s interest in hosting the 2010 event. “We know for sure that [the congress] requires some kind of support, directly from the government or in private partnerships. The convention centre is the ideal place for the event, and it will immediately be improved regarding air-conditioning and replacement of equipment. Strong investments are being done in the city for the important events that will take place. Furthermore, as part of such an effort, the airport will also be enlarged, and the seven direct flights to the USA and Europe that currently exist will be increased to 22 in the next two years.”

The delegation also met with the Vice-Governor of Bahia, who stated that Bahia is honored to host the FDI congress and also affirmed the support of the Governor of Bahia, Mr. Jaques Wagner. More information about the FDI’s visit in Brazil can be found on the FDI Online – www.fdiworldental.org/congress/leoncio2009_11_31_en.html.

Plan your attendance for the 2009 AWDC in Singapore

Congress information available online

With the 2009 congress behind us, it is now time to start planning your attendance for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in the city of Singapore.

FDI Scientific Programme

Organise your visit to the FDI congress around the scientific sessions you would like to attend. The Scientific Programme, which includes limited attendance courses and forums, is available for viewing online. Please visit: www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/Singapore/congress4.html.

Get up to 20% discount with the Star Alliance network

The Star Alliance network has been appointed as the official airline network for the 2009 FDI congress. Simply call the reservation office of any participating Star Alliance member airline and quote the event code SQ01S09. Registered participants plus one accompanying person travelling to the event are automatically granted a discount of up to 20%, depending on the class of travel. For more information, please visit www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/Singapore/congress7.html.

The Malaysian programme will

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2009 FDI Continuing Education programme

First stop, Malaysia

2009 will be another busy year for the FDI Continuing Education (CME) team. Twenty-five programmes have been scheduled for 2009 with the first one taking place in January in Malaysia. The Malaysian programme includes a workshop on endodontic retreatment and sessions on management of biofilms for optimal oral and systemic health and new approaches in detection and monitoring of early caries lesions.

The Malaysian programme will be followed by ones in February in Cote d’Ivoire, Myanmar and Singapore. The complete 2009 FDI CME programme calendar with more information on the above sessions and others, is available online for viewing at www.fdiworldental.org/federation/4_0calendar.html.

Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund Grant Program

Request for Proposals (RFP)

In response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004, the ADA Foundation and the American Dental Association’s Committee on International Programs and Development created a Tsunami Dental Reconstruction Fund Grant Program to address long term oral health needs of the communities affected by this natural disaster. The Request for Proposal seeks applicants from US and non-US based organizations, who are working to rebuild oral healthcare initiatives and infrastructures in countries affected by the 2005 Indian Ocean Tsunami such as but not limited to: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Proposals for grants will be accepted in amounts of up to US$70,000. Grants will be awarded to support activities such as:

• The rehabilitation of damaged dental facilities and infrastructure
• The construction and maintenance of a dental facility to establish continued oral healthcare and infrastructure in an affected area.

The costs associated with providing dental services to affected populations (equipment, supplies, transport, training).

Community outreach to affected populations (oral health education, training, service programs).

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