DENTSPLY Asia announces winners of student competitions

DT Asia Pacific

HONG KONG: What do Tan Ming-Yi, Min-Cheol Song and Darapan Pattanapichakorn have in common? All three dental students are winners of clinical case and research competitions held by DENTSPLY Asia during this year’s annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research South-East Asian Division (IADR SEA) in November.

In addition to its annual Student Clinician Program (SCP), which saw National University of Singapore student Ming-Yi come tops with her presentation on 3-D repositioning accuracy of semi-adjustable articulator cast mounting systems, the dental manufacturer held its CERAM-X and Endodontic Case Contest. While the latter went to Pattanapichakorn from the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, the aesthetic dentistry contest produced four winners from universities in South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines. They were awarded certificates and prize money, among other things.

According to DENTSPLY, SCP winner Ming-Yi will be funded to present her research poster along with winners of student competitions from other regions around the world at the annual meeting of the American Dental Association in New Orleans next year. The US-based dental group currently holds its SCP contests in over 35 countries. Initiated in the US in 1959, the programme aims to support and promote undergraduate research at dental schools and universities worldwide.

“Magnetic mounting systems have gained popularity in recent years, but this has not been investigated in detail,” Ming-Yi told Dental Tribune Asia Pacific. “We compared a conventional screwed-on semi-adjustable articulator cast mounting system with five magnetic mounting systems. Based on our study, the conventional screwed-on system was found to be comparable to several magnetic systems in terms of repositioning accuracy.”

Other entries to the competitions included an evaluation of the effect of carbamide peroxide on the enamel bond strength of composite resins at different post-bleaching times, and the use of Bunton-tigre, a flowering plant of the Sansevieria genus from the Philippines, as antimicrobial dental floss. All participants were winners of their national contests.

More than 5,000 students have participated in the SCP since its inception. DENTSPLY’s Asian division has been conducting its South-East Asia programmes since 2002. This year was the first time that the company held all three contests together at one event. More than 15 students from 10 countries in the Asia Pacific region took part in the competitions, according to Clinical Marketing Manager Stephen Ong.

He announced that his company had recently formed a partnership with the IADR SEA and will be the exclusive host of its SCP contests at the organisation’s annual meeting for the next four years. The next competition covered by the contract will be held during the 2013 IADR Asia Pacific Region meeting in Bangkok.