India to get stand-alone dental insurance

New oral health care scheme expected to be launched in June

Daniel Zimmermann

NEV DEHLL India/HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority in India has approved a stand-alone insurance scheme that could help millions of patients throughout the country gain access to much-needed dental care, Indian newspapers have reported. The scheme, which is said to be implemented in June, will cover basic dental procedures, such as check-ups, fillings and extractions, as well as treatment for oral cancer.

Proposed by the Indian Dental Association in 2005, the plan has been under review since then. It has been announced that the General Insurance Corporation, an insurance company owned by the government, and three other public insurance companies will be located in Tianjin and have a production site. The plant will be one of the most recent steps in the company's growth in emerging markets, according to a Geistlich representative.

Geistlich is part of the larger Geistlich Group conglomerate, which includes activities in the production of adhesives, fat for animal feeds and real estate. Besides South Korea, the company also has a subsidiary in Beijing in China.

In a study on animal teeth, Prof. Paul Sharpe (picture) and colleagues found that blood cells can trigger cell growth in teeth. (DTI/Photo KCL, UK)

New hope for facial rehabilitation

An exercise programme involving devices used by dentists has shown prospects for the rehabilitation of facial nerve damage. The treatment uses an instrument associated with measuring tongue strength and the so-called Perry appliance to increase the strength of impaired facial muscle regions.

Unilever to expand China business

Owing to its growth in emerging markets, Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch manufacturer of toothpaste and other consumer products, has announced to expand its business in China with a new production site. The plant will be located in Tianjin and have an annual production output of 100,000 tons.

Bank report predicts new “Asian Century”

A new report released at the Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Vietnam has forecast that the region could account for half of the world’s economic output by 2050, provided that it sustains growth and overcomes challenges like urbanisation and social well-being.

Under these assumptions, more than 5 million people could enjoy living standards comparable with those enjoyed by most Western countries today. Prospects are high for countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia, according to the report.

Currently, the continent, led by high-income developed economies like China, Korea and Japan, accounts for 27% of the world’s economic output.