AOIA International Implantology Congress "Broke the ICE"

".... the key to success is to keep love in the air", Prof. El-Attar President AOIA

FDI and UAE Authorities Hosts Iraqi Dentists

Iraqi Dental Association brought 92 Iraqi dentists from Iraq and the FDI and UAE authorities for the first time facilitated these courses to us and free of charge to our dentists. This idea started when Iraqi Dental Association met the colleagues from the FDI and the UAE in the FDI annual congress in Dubai in October 2007. We emphasized on improving the scientific standard of our dentists.

The implantology course was participated by 90 dentists and conducted by Dr. Ayad Muhammad Ismail whereby he gave 6 hours lectures on Tuesday the 4th of March. On Wednesday the 5th clinical hands-on part of the course began with the emphasis of giving the whole picture of implantology which is the first time such a type of courses tackles. The vice ambassador of the Iraqi embassy in Abu Dhabi attended the conference in order to see the organization of the courses.

On Thursday, 25 Iraqi dentists attended the surgical course organized for one day. Dr. Khaled Ghondour and Dr. J. Evrens from Germany addressed the surgical aspect in dentistry for the general dentists. Certificates of attendance were supplied to all the participants from the American Academy of Continuous Education and the FDI.

To see your dream come true, or the thoughts in your head become a tangible reality is an indescribable feeling and an overwhelming emotion. This is how we felt here in Alexandria, Egypt when we held the AOIA’s International congress. The Alexandria implantology association started holding its biannual congress since 1997, each and every time we had a message to deliver. This year the congress was held under the theme of "Break the ICE." in an attempt to cross the barriers and solve the dilemma between implants, CAD-CAM, and esthetics knowing that we had to keep pace with the modern technology all over the world we chose these three aspects because they are becoming the most regarded issues in dental practice nowadays, especially the CAD-CAM technology which despite the fact that it’s been progressing over years, is still regarded as something vague or underutilized.

I was lucky enough to get to be part of this marvelous event and I consider it as something remarkable in my life. So, allow me to be your guide in our journey of breaking the ICE.

The congress was held from 2nd to the 4th of April 2008 at Hilton Green Plaza with a registration number exceeding 1500 attendants. The opening ceremony reviewed the history of the AOIA and its previous successful events including different courses and the numerous ICOI fellowships given annually and above all the implant school, which the association had established and aims at giving a hand to all practitioners willing to learn implantology.

The congress had a privilege to have a bunch of distinguished keynote speakers from all over the world sharing their experience and presenting a series of fruitful lectures each of which elaborated and shed light on a certain aspect of our theme. The lectures were remarkable and characterized by being based upon highly scientific content. Moreover, we ran different courses during the congress and post congress too. The enormous tradeshows gathered some of the most well-known and important companies in the world of dental implants and dental supplies.

Besides categories we held some social events. We arranged a gala dinner for all our guests whom I think enjoyed their time very much with the soft rhythm of our Arabic music.

On the last day, the AOIA had arranged a surprise party for all the organizers and some of our guests to celebrate our success. I can’t tell you how magnificent it was, how we merged together. I saw tears of joy, heard the laughter, felt the love flooding from every corner; I remember a word which one of the speakers told me, he said that he had been to different events all over the world and he had never felt that happy or sensed the warmth that he found here.

Writing has always been my favorite way of expressing my mind and expressing what my heart feels, but when I was asked to write this report, though I felt really proud, I can’t deny that I panicked at first and felt that this is the most difficult mission I’ve ever been charged with because I had to talk about thoughts bigger than anything I had experienced before. Feelings stronger than anything that I had felt in my life.

Prof. El-Attar (president of the AOIA) summed everything up when he told us that the key to success is to keep love in the air. You can never imagine how everybody felt about preparing such an event, everyone felt responsible and honestly wanted to surpass anything accomplished before. We were determined and persevered no matter what it took.

Last and not the least I want to wholeheartedly thank everyone who participated in this event and to all my colleagues and fellows I would say that I should keep you all in my heart along with all the memories that we shared together. See you in 2010.

Sarah M.M.Kamal