XIIth International Congress of the WFLD in Dubai

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The annual meeting and the activities of the WFLD Executive Committee was held in Dubai from 7 to 8 March 2010 two days a head of the Dubai Congress. The agenda was then discussed; important decisions were made and prepared to be presented to the general assembly in the closing ceremony. The report of the Executive Committee will be presented in the General Assembly by the General Secretary of the WFLD Professor Aldo Brugnara.

The WFLD congress in Dubai was characterized by the participation of 144 speakers and researchers coming from 27 countries discussing for three days all the scientific issues in two halls: WFLD I and WFLD II. In addition to that, a poster session was organized with the participation of 80 poster presenters. Many dental faculties from Europe and South America were exposing their researches and developments in the laser field. This congress was held with the conjunction of the AEEDC Congress in Dubai in the Convention and Exhibition Center.

On the 9th of March, the congress started at 8:30 with an opening ceremony. The chairman of the Organizing Committee as well of the Middle East and Africa division, Professor Toni Zeinoun inaugurated the Congress by thanking all the speakers and the WFLD Divisions for their involvement in the Dubai Congress.
Professor Zeinoun specifically thanked President Gutknecht for all his efforts in contributing to the progress of the WFLD, the official society for laser in dentistry in the world. He additionally thanked Mr Abdul Salam Al Madani from Index for hosting the XIIth International Congress in Dubai. Following on, Prof Zeinoun presented the chairperson of the Scientific Committee of the AEEDC Dr Nasser Malik. Dr Malik underlined the strong involvement of WFLD during this two years represented by Professor Norbert Gutknecht, the President of WFLD, and Professor Toni Zeinoun, the Organizing Chairman, and thanked them for all their efforts in contributing to the success of the scientific meeting in the region. Afterwards Prof Gutknecht thanked in his speech all the participants in the congress and the AEEDC for her collaboration in hosting the XIIth International Congress of WFLD.

The Organizing Chairman commented on the film showing the history and developments of the WFLD. Simultaneously, this film introduced and showed the countries and all the speakers participating in the Congress. The film was prepared by Mme Carla Zeinoun and Dr Théophile Rahall and got a good review from the audience.

According to the Executive Committee decisions, a plaque of appreciation was presented by the Organizing Chairman and the President of WFLD to the President of the AEEDC and the Scientific Committee of AEEDC for their contribution and major efforts in hosting this congress. In addition to that, the Organizing Chairman and Prof Gutknecht awarded a plaque of appreciation representing a life membership to the Past Presidents of WFLD: Prof Samir Nammour, Prof Loh Hong Sai and Prof Isao Ishikawa.

All the badges and files of the speakers were taken from the WFLD Desk Office which was situated in the exhibition center. The Organizing Committee was delivering all the documents to the participants in the congress.

This first day was characterized by the meeting of the country representatives and the affiliated associations. The decisions of the Executive Committee were discussed and, the congress of Barcelona 2012 was introduced by Prof Toni Espana and Prof Joseph Arnabat. A meeting of the European and South America division took also place.

For the first day, the Organizing Committee prepared a touristic program which included a dinner on the deck of the Sundibad boat for all the WFLD participants and their accompanists. In the same time, the Executive Committee of WFLD was invited to a VIP Gala dinner in the Rotana Hotel, where President Gutknecht and Prof Zeinoun were decorated by Mr Abdul Salam Al Madani the President of Index Holding. Also, President Gutknecht and the Chairman Prof Zeinoun presented two plaques of appreciation to the representatives of the Dubai health authority Dr Tareq Koory, and to Mr
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Abdul Salam Al Madani for their hosting, cooperation and collaboration in the success of the WFLD congress.

The second day was characterized by the scientific poster sessions. The jury of the Scientific Committee viewed and discussed the posters with their presenters in two sessions. The meeting of the North American division and Asian division took place on the 10th of March. The AEDC Gala dinner was held in the Hayat Regency Hotel in the presence of the Prince of Dubai. The Executive Committees were presented by Prof Norbert Gutknecht, Aldo Brugnera and Toni Zeinoun. A table of honor was reserved for the Executive Committees of WFLD and special attention from Mr Al Madani to his guest.

On the third day, the meeting of the Middle East and African division took place; as well as the meeting of the jury of the Scientific Committee which designated the best poster and best oral presentation. The first award of oral presentation was designed to Dr Ambrose Chan from Australia and the first award for poster presentation was designed for Dr V. Aleksic from Japan. During his final statement, at the closure ceremony, the Organizing Chairman thanked all the participants and invited the Chairman of the Scientific Committee Prof Samir Nammour to reward the best oral and poster presenter. According to WFLD Executive Committee, the best oral and poster presenter were rewarded by the Chairman of Scientific Committee Prof Nammour. A plaque of appreciation was delivered to the Past President of WFLD Prof Norbert Gutknecht and for the Chairman of Scientific Committee Prof Samir Nammour for all their efforts contributing to the success of the congress by the WFLD Organizing Chairman Prof Toni Zeinoun.

The General assembly began with the participation of Mr Abdul Salam Al Madani. He congratulated the WFLD Executive Committee especially Prof Toni Zeinoun and the President Prof Norbert Gutknecht for the excellent organization and the success of the congress. Then he presented trophies to the organizing committee members and the invited speakers. A photo with the executive members was taken to commemorate the moment.

The General assembly of WFLD continued giving the approval for the report of Executive Committees and the decision of the divisions of WFLD. Prof Gutknecht present the executive committees decisions:

- The creation of legal affairs posts. Prof Norbert Gutknecht and Prof Samir Nammour were voted for these posts for a period of six years.
- The election of president elect Prof Aldo Brugnera.
- The election of Carlo Fornaini from Italia as a treasurer of WFLD.
- The election of Kenji Yushida from Japan as a general secretary of WFLD.
- The election of Adam Stabholz as a new chairman for the European division.

Prof Aldo Brugnera and Prof Abiko report to the General secretary and Treasurer. And the general assembly approved the two reports. Prof Gutknecht invited his team to present a report about the new modalities of our website where members can enter and paid their duties by pay pal directly. Then the president invited the Spanish team to present the WFLD congress 2012 in Barcelona. A film for the occasion was exposed. The Organizing Chairman announced the finishing of the general assembly and invited the Spanish team (Dr Toni Espana and Dr Joseph Arnabat) to come to the stadium where he presents the flag of WFLD to the team and where the XIIIth International Congress of WFLD will take place in Barcelona at may 2012.

Finally, the last social activities of the congress was the Gala dinner who was held in restaurant Al Tannour in Dubai were Lebanese food and Arabic musical program were presented.

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