The FDI World Dental Federation has announced that China’s Minister for Health, Prof. Chen Zhu, will be the first recipient of the organisation’s Inaugural World Oral Health Recognition Award. The 59-year-old haematologist was selected owing to his contributions to the development of dentistry in China, the organisation said last week.

Politically independent Zhu was appointed Minister of Health of the People’s Republic of China in early 2007. Since then, he has implemented reforms of China’s health-care system, which included the expansion of basic health coverage to urban and rural areas, among other things. He also remains professor at Jiao Tong University’s School of Medicine in Shanghai, as well as a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

It is the first time that the FDI has awarded an individual for his or her contributions to dentistry.

The award will be given to Zhu officially during the opening ceremony of this year’s FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Hong Kong in August.

Vision 2020: shaping the future of oral health

Principles unveiled at special World Dental Parliament session

The FDI World Dental Federation will unveil its Vision 2020: shaping the future of oral health on Tuesday, 28 August, at a special panel session of the World Dental Parliament. Here, in brief, are the principal elements of the FDI Vision.

1. Meet the increasing need and demand for oral healthcare

Our Vision is that by 2020, inequities with regard to access to oral healthcare will be substantially reduced and the global need and demand for oral healthcare more largely met.

2. Expand the role of oral healthcare professionals

Our Vision is that, by 2020, oral health will be fully recognized and accepted as a crucial part of overall health and well being.

3. Shape a responsive educational model

Our Vision is that by 2020, our young graduates will benefit from responsive, dynamic and modular curricula, with a focus on extensive critical thinking and analytical skills as well as public health and trans-professional education.

4. Mitigate the impacts of socio-economic dynamics

Our Vision is that, by 2020, collaboration and partnerships between the private and public sector will have led to the inclusion of Oral Health in all Policies and the focus will shift to models viewing prevention, promotion, and treatment as equally important.

5. Foster fundamental and translational research and technology

Our Vision is that, by 2020, major improvements in oral health will have been achieved and inequalities will have been reduced through research-led strategies for more effective disease prevention, with the integration of oral health into healthcare in general.

Look out for the 30 August edition of World Dental Daily for fuller coverage!