United under a single banner of “ Leading the world to optimal oral health”

By Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva, FDI President

The FDI has a long and proud history. Founded in Paris in 1900, our federation lived, prospered and made its mark on oral health worldwide through the long and sometimes troubled years of the 20th century. One of the reasons behind its original establishment was to organise dental congresses with a focus on dental education, oral hygiene and public dental health and, in general, to resolve issues of complicated customs, regularise the profession and enable progress.

Always in the vanguard of trends and thinking, the FDI, at this year’s event, is maintaining its focus on the future role of dental medicine, placing it firmly within the context of public health policy, strategies, and in fields of public concern such as communicable diseases, and the imperatives of linking oral health with general health.

Just one day before the congress opened, on 28 August, the FDI’s World Dental Parliament—some 300 delegates from over 130 national dental associations and specialist groups—convened for its annual plenary session and held a forum on the just-released FDI document titled “Vision 2020: Shaping the future of oral health”. Although congress goers were not party to the FDI parliament debate, they are able to download the document in five languages from the FDI website. It is essential reading for all those interested in the future of dental medicine in the world, the challenges it faces and ideas on how to resolve them.

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I believe that what he said rings true today. Here we are, men—and women—of science, united under a single banner of “Leading the world to optimal oral health!”

I would like to add my voice to that of my colleagues in the local organising committee in wishing you an enriching and enjoyable 2012 Annual World Dental Congress. My colleagues and I are especially honored to be hosting the 100th edition of this prestigious event.

Hong Kong has always kept up with advances in dental technology in order to meet the constantly evolving needs and demands of the community. As the representative body of the Hong Kong dental profession, the Hong Kong Dental Association has been taking a proactive role in promoting oral health in collaboration with FDI World Dental Federation and local government, as well as establishing an exchange network with our Mainland colleagues and neighbouring countries or places over the years. With concerted effort and support, we are delighted to see that significant achievements have been made and we are honored to be part of the growth of dental development.

The 2012 FDI AWDC provides all dental colleagues worldwide with a vibrant platform to update dental knowledge, explore new advances in dental technology and foster closer ties. Numerous eminent speakers have been invited to share their expertise with our congress participants. It will broaden our horizon in unlimited ways. Please join us and take full advantage of the opportunities this special Congress has to offer.