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 1907, 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.

Dr Erica Wheeler, Technical Officer at WHO’s Department for Health Systems Policies and Workforce, addressed delegates of the World Oral Health Forum on Tuesday.

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 part of 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. For the FDI and its member associations worldwide, it provides a blueprint for achieving its goals and ambitions.

The congress itself is the key event in the organisation’s annual calendar for continuing dental education: most of the time and in at least one region, the FDI provides continuing education throughout the year. However, the congress brings a unique, international focus, with speakers from every area of the world, the Americas, Africa, South and West Asia, the Asia Pacific and Europe.

It is a place where ideas are communicated and shared among people from different horizons and where friendships are cemented. Way back in 1922, King Alfonso of Spain, addressing FDI delegates in Madrid, said, “By your meeting here you men of science are giving a lesson to diplomats. Because, as soon as something can be done for the good of humanity, for you nations no longer exist […] A much higher conception unites you all.”

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 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in this great city of Hong Kong.

Significant achievements have been made

By Dr Sigmund Leung, President of the HKDA and chairperson of the local organising committee

Asia’s chairperson of the local organising committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to Hong Kong on the occasion of the 2012 FDI Annual World Dental Congress. My colleagues and I are especially honoured to be hosting the 100th edition of this prestigious event.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of the People’s Republic of China and a world-renowned centre of business and commerce. Being international and cosmopolitan, the city offers an infinite variety of things to see and do in a unique fusion of Eastern and Western heritage and culture.

Hong Kong has always kept up with advancing technologies in dental practice 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 honoured 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.

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