

FERNÉY communiqué

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues and friends,

2005 is the year of the rooster according to the Chinese calendar so it is time to wake up if we have not already done so! With the Governance review behind us we will now move on.

In April Council will have its usual mid-year meeting but this year it will be a bit shorter as we have to leave room for our important workshop. Participants in the workshop will not only be the members of Council, but also all committee chairmen, directors of companies and key staff members. The objective is to focus on and develop a clear-cut strategy for FDI for 2005 – 2008. The strategic plan will be distributed to all Member Associations and delegates at the General Assembly in Montréal and will be discussed during the assembly meeting. The plans and priorities of the strategic plan will be revised annually until the new planning cycle starts in 2008. I am very happy that we have come this far during my tenure.

During 2004 I worked hard on improving the relationship between the FDI and the Members Associations. I firmly believe personal interaction and communication is the best way to approach the demands that lie ahead and to fulfil our Vision and Mission Statements. This can be done in numerous ways. The road that I have taken during my presidency has been to visit as many of our members as possible. These visits have been undertaken on invitations only. I have also worked on improving the relations with the WHO and have been fortunate to be able to meet with the Director-General, Dr Lee, on numerous occasions. Our



meetings have always been constructive and will build a sound basis for future collaborations.

I have started on my last stretch as FDI President and am looking forward to the challenges from now and until the Montréal meetings. May I take this opportunity to once again invite you to bring us your ideas and input for the Council workshop in April or for the meetings in August.? You can always contact me, any other member of Council or the Head Office.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Heung-Ryul Yoon
President
FDI World Dental Federation

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MID-YEAR MEETINGS

Executive Committee

The FDI Executive Committee consisting of the president, Dr HR Yoon, President-elect Dr Michèle Aerden, and Treasurer Dr Brent Stanley and the Executive Director Dr JT Barnard met on the 4th and 5th of March at the FDI Head Office in Ferney-Voltaire to work through a very full agenda.

The Committee noted with appreciation that the President has achieved all the goals which he set for himself at the time when he took office. A comprehensive report will be made to the Council and the General Assembly in Montréal.

The financial status was reviewed and the Executive Committee was satisfied that the new financial management system was well in place even though further refinements were ongoing. The fact that detailed provisional reports for the previous financial year were available as early as the beginning of March was commended. Indications were that the financial targets as approved by the General Assembly would be met, but an exchange rate loss during the year, which is outside FDI's control, will in all probability create a higher than budgeted deficit. It was decided that research should be carried out to consider the possibilities of changing to a one currency system. This will be presented to Council at their upcoming meeting.

The Committee spent considerable time in discussions around the upcoming Council workshop and met with the moderator to ensure that the process was sound and would achieve the required goals.

Aspects that would be further discussed at the upcoming Council meeting included Regional Organisation matters, the establishment of an FDI Foundation, the projects and goals of the FDI companies and the appointment of new directors to the Boards of World Dental Partners Ltd and World Dental Congress Ltd. The Committee also considered new applications for membership, the final

changes to the new Constitution and the wide range of reports from Standing Committees, Regional Organisations and organisations with whom the FDI has relations. An exciting development was the proposal for a new FDI Section – more information about this will be presented to Council for a decision.

The Executive Committee had invited the top management of the Association Dentaire Française and the Confédération Nationale des Syndicats Dentaires for a brief meeting and dinner in order to strengthen relations with the French colleagues – after all, the FDI Head Office is on French soil!

By coincidence the European Regional organisation (ERO) held their Board meeting during the same time as the Executive meeting, also at the FDI Head Office. It was thus a good opportunity for a brief meeting between the two groups. It was clear that the upcoming meeting in Montréal between the FDI Council and representatives of Regional Organisations will be useful and constructive for all as several issues for discussion were raised.



FDI Executive Committee and ERO Board

Directors of FDI companies meet

During February, the directors of the three companies based in the UK met in London and Lowestoft.

The directors of FDI World Dental Partners are Dr Bill Allen and Dr JT Barnard. Dr Allen was appointed by the FDI Council in September last year. The directors of World Dental Congress Ltd are Dr JT Barnard and Dr Peter Swiss. There is one vacancy on the boards of both companies

and it is expected that the FDI Council will appoint directors to fill these vacancies at their meeting in April.

The meetings were also attended by the Events Director, Paul Wilson and Finance Manager, Lance Fennell.

The World Dental Partners meeting concentrated mainly on their core business, which is recognition programmes. It was noted that the FDI currently had agreements for the use of the FDI logo with seven companies. The income to the FDI grew steadily during the last years thanks to these agreements. The most gratifying aspect was however, the fact that the FDI shares the income received with its Members and currently ploughs back into global development programmes more than reaches the FDI.

The directors of FDI World Dental Congress were pleased with the positive outcome of the New Delhi Congress, notwithstanding the organisational difficulties that were experienced. Indications were that the Montréal Congress would be a smashing success. Registrations have started to come in earlier than normally, which is seen as an indication that a good attendance can be expected.

The 2007 Annual World Dental Congress will be held in Dubai and the venues for 2008 and 2009 will in all likelihood be decided on by Council in August in Montréal.

The FDI World Dental Press meeting was held against a background of healthy financial news which was revealed in the draft accounts for 2004, showing a profit in excess of budget. The editor of the IDJ outlined developments for 2005 and these include: a gradual redesign, moves to identify different sections more clearly, discussions on further supplements, and negotiations leading to a possible Ukrainian edition of IDJ. The directors were pleased with the positive progress in the IDJ since the previous meeting and reaffirmed its faith in the future growth of the title.

Corporate Partners

The FDI had the pleasure of welcoming its Corporate Partners to the American Dental Association offices in Chicago for the annual Corporate Partner meeting. It was well attended by industry leaders from across the spectrum of the dental world.

Dr JT Barnard spoke about the structure and missions of the FDI while Paul Wilson provided much awaited information about future congress venues. A lot of interest was shown in the 2006 Annual World Dental Congress which will be held in Shenzhen, China. Dr Habib Benzian gave a presentation with the theme of change and how the FDI is working to achieve its mission of "Promoting optimal oral and general health for all peoples". The important role of our Corporate Partners in achieving this was emphasised.

During an open question and answer session a variety of topical issues were discussed with interesting debate arising. The meeting renewed energy with regard to FDI activities and we would like to thank all of those present for taking the time to come and meet with us.

Committee e-mail meetings

The meetings started at the beginning of March and are expected to be finished within two to three weeks. The experience so far is good although the meetings are sometimes slow because of members travelling or in different time zones and sometimes hectic with many comments. The exchange of ideas is difficult and it is of course not an ideal situation but according to the experience so far from all involved it has been working surprisingly well.

FDI SUCCESSFULLY FACILITATED THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH POLICY IN RWANDA

A national workshop on oral health jointly organised by the Ministry of Health in Rwanda, the WHO Regional Office in Congo and the FDI was held in February in Kigali,

capital of Rwanda. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a draft framework for a National Oral Health Policy and to get participation and ownership of the policy from all national stakeholders. The event was a great success with the Minister of Health, Dr Ntawukuliryayo, participating and an overwhelming level of involvement from all present was outstanding. Dr Ntawukuliryayo said that the ministry gives high priority to the management of non-communicable diseases, including oral health. He further mentioned that in Rwanda oral health is a public health concern according to oral health needs expressed by the population. All who participated in the workshop were optimistic that a detailed legal and policy framework for oral health and the practice of dentistry in Rwanda would be ready within 2 years.



From left to right: Dr Habib Benzian, FDI; Dr Charlotte Ndiaye, Regional Advisor, Oral Health, WHO/AFRO; Dr Jean Damascène Ntawukuliryayo, Minister of Health, Dr Diosdado Vivente Nsue-Milang, WHO country representative and Prof Martin Hobdell, FDI, workshop facilitator.

The workshop participants decided on the oral health priorities being: caries, periodontal diseases, trauma, oral manifestations of HIV infection, tumours, congenital malformations and harmful practices. It was also agreed that the strategic approaches would need to take some basic principles into account such as prevention, integration of oral health and general health, training and installation of oral health personnel at all levels of the

health system, as well as the development of new and the rehabilitation of existing oral health care facilities. To make affordable, accessible, appropriate and safe oral care available for all communities in Rwanda is the vision of the process that has now been successfully initiated. A full report in English and in French will soon be available from the FDI web site on the Public Health Pages.

SUPPORT FOR THE TSUNAMI AFFECTED COUNTRIES

Following the announcement of the FDI in January that the World Dental Development Fund would prioritise projects submitted by countries affected by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in December 2004, the Fund has seen two major donations from GC Corporation, Japan and the Japan Dental Association as well as several smaller donations (for full list of donors see the website at http://www.fdiworldental.org/public_health/8_ofund.html). These donations will help the Fund in supporting communities affected by the disaster. We appreciate these donations and our sincere thanks go to the donors.

A detailed guideline and support for infection control has been made available by the FDI affiliate member OSAP and can be accessed and downloaded from the FDI website http://www.fdiworldental.org/public_health/8_ofund.html

MEETINGS AT WHO

The meeting of the WHO Executive Board in January is traditionally the first occasion of the year where ministers, health diplomats, NGO's and WHO officials meet and discuss the agendas of the coming year. This year's meetings were, of course, dominated by the unparalleled natural disaster that struck many

Asian and African countries. Apart from attending the main sessions of the Executive Board the FDI delegation met with several ministers and delegates, as well as other NGO's. The FDI President, Dr HR Yoon met with the WHO Director-General, Dr YW Lee, for a private lunch and another official meeting, where the FDI Executive Director, Dr JT Barnard, was present as well and where the broad lines of collaboration were discussed. More detailed issues were considered in a meeting with the Director of Non-Communicable Diseases and Prevention, Dr Robert Beaglehole and the Chief of the Oral Health Unit, Prof Poul Erik Petersen.

The promising follow-up of the Nairobi Oral Health Conference was the central topic during a meeting with the new Regional Director for WHO/AFRO, Dr Luiz Gomez Sambo, who confirmed that he would be keen to continue the close collaboration between the two organisations

ARTHUR A. DUGONI SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

San Francisco's University of the Pacific last year named its School of Dentistry after its current dean, D. Arthur A. Dugoni. Dr Dugoni, who was a FDI Treasurer and member of Council 1992 - 1998, is a renowned educator and dental leader who has served as the school's dean for 26 years. He will step down in June 2006. Dr Dugoni is currently president of the ADA Foundation, the philanthropic branch of the ADA dedicated to improving the oral health of

Americans. He has also been the inspiration for the development of a National Campaign for Dental Education.



Showing off the new sign in honour of Dr. Dugoni.

MONTREAL CONGRESS

Exhibition

The exhibition space for FDI 2005 is selling fast. More than 75% of the booths have already been sold which represents over 150 exhibitors so far. The exhibition promises to be another world-class showcase for the Dental Industry. The Canadian Dental Industry will be well represented as will dental companies from further afield.

Free Communications and Posters

We have received approximately 140 posters and 70 free communications. Thanks to all who have submitted their applications!

Cut off date for lower registration fee is 15 April

The quickest way to register is to do it on-line at www.fdiworldental.org but you can also register by faxing your registration form to +33 4 50 40 55 55.

Hotels

If you would like a choice of hotels we urge you to book as soon as possible. All hotels are filling up fast and two are already sold out. There is an Accommodation Booking Form in the Preliminary programme; it can also be printed from the FDI web site at <http://www.fdiworldental.org/microsites/montreal/congress2.html>. You can further book through reservation@tourismemontreal.org or call +1 514 844-0848 or fax +1 514 844-6771.

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*Sjogren's M, Axel T, Birkhed D. (1996) Comparison between saliva stimulants and saliva substitutes in patients with symptoms related to dry mouth. A multi-centre study. *Swed Dent J*; 44: 153-161.

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