

FERNÉY communiqué

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

We live in an age of Public Relations.

The IT revolution has enabled us to read international newspapers and magazines in real time and 24 hour news coverage from major TV outlets makes us realise that we truly live in a global society.

I am immensely proud of the FDI World Dental Federation and its 104 year history. Since its establishment, the FDI has annually held World Dental Congresses (except during times of war) to exchange knowledge, learn about new technologies and the latest scientific developments and form new policies.

Along with the preparations for the 2004 New Delhi Congress in September, the FDI has been extremely active thus far. From the months of January to May there have been numerous meetings; with the WHO Executive, various committee meetings, two Governance Task Team meetings, and the mid-year Council meeting. The FDI has also attended the WHO Executive Board Meeting and the World Health Assembly.

The Planning Conference on Oral Health in the African Region in Nairobi has left a lasting impression on the key decision/policy makers in the African region and made significant inroads to making all the participants realise and reaffirm that the improvement of oral health care is at the heart of a nation's general health. Though valuable in itself, these momentous events organised by the FDI and cosponsored by the WHO present a valuable source of PR material that we should capitalise on through the media.



Throughout its history, the FDI, through its efforts and services has made significant contributions to and for the citizens of the world. Through our efforts, we have played a major role in elevating the dental profession to the highly respected position that we now enjoy.

We as individual dentists and as a collective must work harder to further our profession but we should also try to influence the media in order to promote the FDI more effectively.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the growth of our proud organisation.

We live in an age of Public Relations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heung-Ryul Yoon
President
FDI World Dental Federation

Contents



The Hon Charity Ngilu, Minister of Health of the Republic of Kenya, arriving at the Planning Conference in Nairobi

- Planning Conference for Oral Health in the African Region 2
- Meetings at Head Office 2
- Other Meetings 3
- New FDI Website 4
- International Academy of Periodontology 4
- News item 4
- New Delhi congress 4

fdi 
FDI World Dental Federation
www.fdiworldental.org

FERNÉY
communiqué
Sponsored by

 **WRIGLEY**
ORAL HEALTHCARE
PROGRAMS

PLANNING CONFERENCE FOR ORAL HEALTH IN THE AFRICAN REGION A HUGE SUCCESS

The conference, organised by the FDI and co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation, was a big success both in terms of attendance and outcome. A total of 189 delegates from 48 African and nine non-African countries - 10 were Ministers of Health or Finance and approximately 30 were Chief Dental Officers - attended. There were also representatives from all FDI Member Associations in Africa. Dr Samba, Regional Director of WHO/AFRO said, that this was a truly historic meeting and "the first ever conference on oral health on the African continent of that magnitude and impact".

The aims of the conference were to sensitise political leaders to the link between oral and general health and to raise awareness of oral health issues. In addition - it was to propose effective strategies to integrate oral health into existing health care systems as well as strengthening public-private partnerships. The deliberations during the conference were mainly based on the existing WHO Regional Oral Strategy for the period 1999-2008.

The conference was officially opened by the Hon Moody Awori, Vice President of the Republic of Kenya. Among the many important speakers during the opening ceremony were the Hon Charity Ngilu, Minister of Health of Kenya and Dr Ebrahim Samba, WHO Regional Director for Africa.



From the right: Dr Bertrand Piccard, Hon Charity Ngilu, Minister of Health, Republic of Kenya, Hon Moody Awori, Vice President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr Heung-Ryul Yoon, President, FDI, Dr JT Barnard, Executive Director, FDI.

The Hon Charity Ngilu said that the problem posed by oral diseases in Africa is compounded by the fact that budgetary

allocations to oral health programmes have been minimal. She illustrated the inadequate attention paid to oral health in Africa with Kenya where, she said, "the allocation to dental health care is 0.0016 % of the total health budget". She further stated that although most oral diseases are preventable, there are few active oral health education and prevention programmes in the region. She finished by urging participants to come up with suggestions to lay the foundation for the development, improvement and coordination of oral health care in the region. Dr Samba declared that the presence at the conference of so many African countries signalled a new awakening to the importance of oral health, and the determination by African governments to face up to the challenges posed.

Dr Bertrand Piccard, a specialist in psychiatry and psychotherapy and a world-renowned balloon pilot, gave the keynote lecture. He had, together with his co-pilot Brian Jones, created 'Winds of Hope', a humanitarian foundation to use the financial and media impact of the round-the-world flight to fight suffering in the world. One of the main focus areas is the support of the WHO/AFRO NOMA programme.



From the left Dr Ebrahim Samba, Prof Poul Erik Petersen, Responsible Officer, Oral Health Unit, WHO, Geneva greeting the Hon Charity Ngilu and Dr JT Barnard.

During the Conference there were lectures by renowned speakers on framework and partnerships, the organisation and finance of oral care, infection control and NOMA, followed by lively discussions. During the workshops practical issues related to strategic planning for oral health care were debated.

Instead of giving the speakers at the conference remuneration or presents it was decided to donate a sum to the Nairobi Hospice. It provides palliative care

for terminally ill patients, particularly those with AIDS and cancer and is the only such institution in Nairobi. The FDI has received a letter of thanks and an official receipt for the donation so we know that the money is where it should be and that it will add quality of life to the patients' lives.

A number of spin-off meetings were organised taking advantage of the unique opportunity to get together; there was an FDI lunch with member associations, an ARO meeting, a special meeting on oral health in Rwanda, an informal meeting for a Public Health training Network in West Africa, and another informal meeting of Women Dentists Worldwide. Some of these meetings are reported elsewhere in this issue of the Communiqué.

A first tangible outcome of the meeting was the Nairobi Declaration on Oral Health in Africa (please see www.fdiworldental.org for the full text) that was adopted unanimously. The delegates confirmed their commitment to increase the number of countries with functioning oral health policies in the region and emphasised that the integration of oral health into general health activities and primary health care is essential. The document will help WHO, FDI, National Dental Associations and governments in their advocacy for the future. The consequences arising from the Nairobi Declaration will be discussed at the next meeting of African Health Ministers during the WHO/AFRO Regional Committee Meeting in August and will also be put forward to the African Union in Addis Ababa for further endorsement.

The FDI wishes to thank the corporate and NGO supporters of the conference, namely Colgate Palmolive International, Colgate Palmolive East-Africa, Procter & Gamble Oral Care, Unilever Ltd and OSAP for their generous support. A full report on the conference is in preparation.

MEETINGS AT HEAD OFFICE

Council meeting

During the period 5 - 10 May the FDI Head Office in Ferney-Voltaire was a hive of activity. The Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Governance Task Team and the FDI Council held meetings and debated a wide variety of aspects.

The key discussions in the Council meeting centred on Governance and financial matters, although the meeting covered the normal wide scope of activities in which the FDI is involved.

The FDI had during the past year elevated its position as a significant leader in oral health development in the world and has received recognition and praise from all over, although it has come at a cost, maybe higher than the FDI can afford. During the meeting Council noted with concern that the FDI has shown a deficit which is higher than budget, for the 2003 financial year. Council debated the 2004 financial projections and the 2005 budget in depth. Actions were taken to minimise the deficit for 2004 and to present a balanced budget to the General Assembly for 2005.

The feedback from Member Associations on Governance aspects indicated that the proposals that have been put forward by the Task Team and the Council were generally well received. Council suggested some minor changes to the Task Team's final submission. The FDI's Member Associations will in due course receive an updated document as well as a new draft Constitution, based on the proposed changes. It is hoped that the proposals would be adopted by General Assembly in New Delhi.

Some of the other important decisions taken during the Council meeting included changes in the FDI's prizes and awards, a new approach in determining future Annual World Dental Congress venues and a new scheme of individual membership that would allow for individual members to contribute to the FDI's oral health development and promotion activities. A number of new draft Statements were also approved for presentation to the General Assembly.

World Dental Development Committee and Workshop

During this year's mid-year meeting of the WDDC the formal committee meeting was rather short and dealt mainly with the Fund, projects of the Fund and some last minute arrangements for the Nairobi Planning Conference.

The main part of the meeting, however, was a strategic workshop for the development of a new long-term strategy

for the work of the WDDC. This was necessary since the first strategic plan was no longer valid and as new members joined the committee in 2002. The workshop discussions started with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of the committee and its work and concluded with a consensus on the Key Result that should be achieved.

Key Result

The WDDC will be the nexus to develop, support and promote global evidence-based programmes – among FDI members and other stakeholders – in order to assist FDI to reduce inequalities in oral and general health.

The committee also identified nine objectives to achieve the aim stated in the Key Result Area; each objective has separate target groups and includes different activities, evaluation indicators and timelines. George Weber, Vice-chairman of the WDDC, very successfully moderated the workshop. More details of the new WDDC strategy will be available soon on the new FDI website.



WDDC, invited guest and HQ Staff, from left back row: Dr Habib Benzian, Development Manager, Prof Malick Sembène, Prof Wim van Palenstein Helderman, Dr Roby Beaglehole, Dental Public Health Consultant, Mr George Weber, Dr JT Barnard, Executive Director. Second row from left: Dr Gary Leff, Prof Martin Hobdell, Dr Stephen Moss. First row, from left: Mrs Charlotte Nackstad, Communications Manager, Dr Brian Mouatt, Chairman, Prof Charlotte Faty Ndiaye, WHO AFRO

Meeting with IDM Executive

The FDI and IDM Executive Commitments have met to discuss a variety of aspects of mutual interest and important. The IDM was represented by their President, Dr Jürgen Eberlein and Executive Director Mr. Fred Herbst. The FDI's Executive was supported by the Executive and Events Directors.

Some of the key discussion points were

aspects around the organisation of the New Delhi Congress and future congresses. Specific attention was given to the FDI's new approach to receive 'bids' for hosting congresses. The continued collaboration between the two organisations on many fronts is seen as beneficial to both parties and all present expressed their appreciation of it.

OTHER MEETINGS

FDI/IADR Science Transfer meeting

For the second time a science transfer meeting - kindly sponsored by Nobel Biocare - was held at the annual IADR (International Association of Dental Research) meeting. Presentations were received from 20 of 21 of the IADR special interest groups; these groups deal with all the different fields within research, for example Dental Materials, Cariology, Behavioural Sciences, Oral Health Research, Pulp Biology, Salivary Research, and Geriatric Oral Research. The presentations have been summarised to form the basis for the planning of the scientific programme, both with respect to content and speaker selections, at future Annual World Dental Congresses. An important benefit of the science transfer meetings is the strengthening of the close partnership between the FDI and the IADR.

Oral Health in Rwanda – High level meeting in Nairobi

Devastation, terror and genocide brought unimaginable destruction to millions in Rwanda. Less apparent has been the almost total loss of infrastructure including medical and dental services. It is hard to comprehend the difficulties that have followed. The FDI, through the World Dental Development Committee, has taken up the challenge of assisting in the rebuilding of oral health services in this traumatic post-conflict situation.

The World Dental Development Fund supported a pilot fact-finding study and at the recent Planning Conference in Nairobi the Hon Minister of Health, Dr Abel Dushimimana, led a delegation reporting on the successful outcome of the study. During a special meeting on oral health in Rwanda attended by the Hon Minister of

Health, the Rwanda Dental Association, representatives of FDI, the WHO and the World Dental Development Committee, Prof Charlotte Ndiaye, Regional Advisor Oral Health WHO/AFRO indicated support for further progress and said that Rwanda is part of the WHO/AFRO priority action plan. A national workshop is to be considered and the FDI Executive Director, Dr JT Barnard, pledged full support for this initiative. Clearly there is still much to be done and FDI and WHO will work together to guide the next steps.

At last, after disaster, there is now some hope for oral health in Rwanda.

International Dental Conference FDI/Ukrainian Dental Association

FDI Continuing Dental Education in Eastern Europe was for the first time brought to Kiev at the end of March. The FDI organised in cooperation with the Ukrainian Dental Association a series of lectures at the Association's first international conference.

It was very successful and attracted several hundred participants, which to a great extent was a result of the hard work by Dr V Savenko and Prof Y Opanasyuk. FDI speakers were Prof A Mersel and Prof G Koch and the topics covered were partial dentures, implant supported full dentures, prevention and traumatic injuries to the teeth. The programme was generously sponsored by KaVo and Procter & Gamble.

ARO-meeting

ARO had a general meeting in Nairobi directly after the Planning Conference for Oral Health. The meeting was the best attended since the formation of ARO with representatives of 19 national dental associations present.

Many important points were discussed and decisions taken and among them were to:

- Launch an ARO web site to be hosted by the FDI
- To strengthen the ARO by increasing the number of member associations paying membership fees, establishing a head office, having continuing education programmes rotating from country to country, and implementing strategies and decisions from earlier meetings and conferences

- Reaffirm ARO's commitment to the Nairobi Declaration
- Request help from the FDI with regard to translations of ARO documents.

At the end of the meeting all present thanked the FDI and WHO for the well-organised Planning Conference for Oral Health.

ERO- meeting

As we went to press, the ERO spring meeting was about to take place, at the end of May, in Bucharest. This will be an important meeting and maybe a watershed in the history of the region as the most important item on the agenda is the future of the organisation. The majority of ERO member associations are now also members of or observers to the Dental Liaison Committee in the EU (DLC). For many of the ERO member associations the DLC membership is now taking precedence, which leads to considerations about the outcome and benefits of the membership of both bodies. A decision about the mission of ERO is urgently needed.

NEW FDI WEB SITE

The web site is now in its final stages of redesign and rebuilding. We hope that you will find it easier to access information and navigate the new site. It should be up and running at the beginning of June so keep a look out! We will send you e-mail alerts when the time comes and we are of course be looking forward to your feed-back on both content and appeal! The address will not change – www.fdiworldental.org.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY

A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the International Academy of Periodontology and the FDI. It underlines the affiliation between the two organisations relating to continuing dental education activities. The IAP will be the 'periodontal arm', but not exclusively so of the FDI and will participate in the Annual World Dental Congress and in other continuing education projects.

NEWS ITEM

Removal of amalgam did not reduce pain

A study published in the *Journal of the Norwegian Dental Association*, Tidende 2004; 2: 114, contradicts the hypothesis that removal of amalgam may reduce chronic pain to a normal level. This multi disciplinary study of patients with chronic pain attributed to their amalgam fillings, done at the University of Oslo, Norway with Per Nerdrum M.D. as project leader, shows that patients who had their amalgam fillings removed reported a major improvement after two years, but no measurable improvement after seven years. The time span for follow-up studies was long due to the fact that mercury disappears slowly from the body. After seven years the level of pain reported from the group where amalgam had been removed was at the same level as for the three control groups.

The researchers believe that the improvement after two years is mainly due to the natural variation in the level of pain and also to the fact that the patients were well cared for and a lot of time and interest was spent on them. Per Nerdrum concludes that a project for the future could be to carry out a study that includes individuals who are more prone to mercury sensitivity than others.

Tidende 2004; 2: 114.



NEW DELHI CONGRESS

Changes

Women Dentists Worldwide – 'The Mouth as Mirror to Society' has been moved to Saturday 11 September in the morning.

Speakers:

Shoba Tandon, India
Asha Samanth, USA
Temalesi King, Fiji
Kathy Roth, USA