

# FERNEY communiqué

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

A time to prepare for a new beginning

As you are well aware, I have set 5 goals that I wish to achieve during my term of office and I have promised to do my utmost to fulfil these goals.

Among them, the Governance Review is a monumental and significant task - one that we, together, should strive to finalise as thoroughly and equitably as possible. I believe now is the time for us to use our joint wisdom and to prepare for a new beginning of the FDI.

Last year, we established several principles that would guide our task. Firstly, to thoroughly examine and gather the input of as many stakeholders as possible to enable our successors to concentrate on fulfilling the missions and goals and the further development of the FDI. Secondly, to obtain opinions and proposals from our Member Associations and other stakeholders and to incorporate as much as possible in the final proposal. Thirdly, to strive to have a balanced perspective - in essence, to ensure that all Member Associations will benefit and grow through the process and its output. The end result will be a revised Constitution and a renewed FDI.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress, again, that the only way we shall be able to accomplish our goals is through the active participation of all stakeholders. We welcome, as always, your feedback and proposals.



In closing, I would like to thank and commend our Chairman, Dr Aerden, the members of the Governance Task Team and Dr Barnard and his staff for their meticulous preparation, hard work and ongoing dedication.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heung-Ryul Yoon  
President  
FDI World Dental Federation

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New Delhi LOC and Events Director Paul Wilson marketing this year's AWDC at the Midwinter Meeting in Chicago

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## FDI MEETINGS

### *Dental Practice Commission*



From left to right back row: Dr Gerd Knauerhase, Dr Henrique Teitelbaum, Dr JT Barnard, Executive Director Dr Claus Munck. Front row: Dr Robin A Whyman, Jenny Syratchev, Executive Assistant, Prof Nermin Yamalik, Dr Patrick Hescot, Dr Myron L Pudwill, Chairman.

**From the long list of proposed new projects the Commission decided to focus, for the near future, on the areas of Practice Management, Dental Office Ergonomics and Dental Technology. Continuance on current projects is progressing well and it is planned to present policy statements in New Delhi.**

It was concluded that cooperation between the Science and Dental Practice Commissions is important as well as the collaboration between the commissions and the committees in order not to duplicate work and projects to move forward in an expedient manner. A liaison meeting for commission and committee chairmen will be arranged in New Delhi to facilitate this.

### *Corporate Partners and Friends*

The FDI organised a successful workshop at the recent Chicago Midwinter Meeting for its Corporate Partners and Friends. The workshop was a follow up of two meetings held in 2003. Close to 50 representatives from 17 companies attended.

The meeting was arranged with a breakout session where the attendees separated into three task teams to discuss choice of venues for future Annual World Dental Congresses, the scientific programmes and the trade exhibits.

The task teams came back with recommendations on the top five criteria for venue selection, on five guidelines for company symposia and on

recommendations for improvements to future trade exhibits. Some of the recommendations will already be implemented for the New Delhi congress while others are more long term.

### *Communications Committee*

The Communications Committee had a mid year meeting in February to move forward on the work plan for 2003/2004. The committee had in the plan decided to prioritise the undertaking of a comprehensive review of FDI publications in order to make recommendations to Council.

The review has been carried out during the last 4 months in questionnaires to the Corporate Partners and to 140 academics as well as in interviews with some representatives of member associations.

Other items that were discussed during the meeting were contacts with Dental Editors and National Liaison Officers, the format of future National Liaison Officers' Forum and a suggested framework for communications between Commissions and Committees.



From left to right back row: Dr Ernesto Acuña, Dr John O'Keefe, chairman, Dr JT Barnard, Executive Director, Dr Henk Schotte, Dr Gordon Watkins, Front row: Dr TC Wong, Charlotte Nackstad, Communications Manager, Dr Neil Campbell.

## **NAIROBI PLANNING CONFERENCE PROMISES TO BE A HUGE EVENT**

**The Planning Conference for Oral Health in the African Region has been met with a vivid interest from governments and dedicated people from around the region. The conference, building on previous FDI activities in the 1990s, will be held on 14-16 April in Nairobi, Kenya, and will be attended by approximately three quarters of all African countries.**

### **Ministers of Health or other senior government officials will head most of the delegations.**

Collaboration with WHO Headquarters and the Regional Office in Brazzaville, Congo, is very good. The Regional Director, Dr Ebrahim Samba, pledged full support by declaring the WHO co-sponsored conference a priority for his administration. Kenya as the hosting country has made the important meeting a "state affair" and is proud to give full support to ministers and delegates during the conference. The preparations for the opening ceremony are on their way and it is likely that his Excellency the President or the Vice-President of Kenya will officially open the event.

During the three conference days delegates will discuss the impact of oral diseases on their populations while renowned experts will highlight simple but effective public health measures to address the oral health needs. The existing Regional Strategy for Oral Health, drafted by WHO and adopted by all health ministers of the region in 1998, will be central to the deliberations. Practical workshops will allow for tangible results and detailed discussions of technical aspects. Numerous additional and informal meetings have been scheduled around the main proceedings, among them an FDI meeting for African Member Associations and a General Assembly of the African Regional Organisation.

In view of the unique and high profile group of delegates a comprehensive press programme has been developed together with WHO and the Kenya Government to ensure a maximum of media attention, both regionally and on the international level.

A gala dinner and a social programme will round off the conference – all details are available on the FDI website. For late registrations all the necessary forms are also available on the website and can be downloaded at <http://www.fdiworldental.org/congress/Nairobi/home.htm>.

## FDI CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN DUBAI

This was held in conjunction with the UAE International Dental Conference & Arab Dental Exhibition at the beginning of March. The scientific programme for the congress was jointly put together by Dr Tariq Khoory and FDI Programme Director, Dr Choo, and it attracted a far greater crowd than anticipated. The limited attendance CE-programme was very successful and lectures were held by experts from the UK, Germany, Belgium and Lebanon.

## 5th JOINT FDI – MYANMAR DENTAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

This was the fifth successive congress in the last five years and it was very successful with more than 300 participants. The Prime Minister opened the meeting and expressed his appreciation to the FDI for organising the meeting and for encouraging the advancement of knowledge.



President HR Yoon and Programme Director Choo Teck Chuan assisting with the opening of the conference.

## FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL – SIGN NOW!

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is the first global treaty for public health negotiated under the auspices of WHO. If it comes into force, signatory governments will be obliged to implement a comprehensive range of evidence based policies that will help reduce smoking in their countries. The convention, an intergovernmental treaty, needs to be signed and ratified

by individual governments. Citizens and NGOs do not have the power to sign or ratify the treaty but they can use their voice and contribute in pressing governments to do so by signing a 'mirror treaty' initiated by the Framework Convention Alliance.

As an individual or an organisation you can add your name to the list to show your commitment and continuing interest and you can also use your power as a health organisation to urge your government to sign the treaty. It will come into force 90 days after the 40th country ratifies. So far, only nine countries have ratified the convention.

The FDI invites all member associations and concerned individuals to sign the mirror treaty and to increase advocacy activities towards ensuring that a maximum number of governments sign and ratify it.

For more information and to sign please go to <http://www.FCTCnow.org> – more than 400 organisations have already signed, including the FDI.

## FDI HEAD OFFICE NEWS

Ms Louisa Zerella, Exhibitions Coordinator, will leave the FDI after four years to go back to her home in Adelaide, Australia. She will be succeeded by Ms Heather Sheppard.

## NEWS ITEMS

### *Health professionals to promote a new code of conduct on tobacco control*

To stem trends in tobacco use, which currently causes nearly five million deaths per year, healthcare professional associations have agreed to promote a new code of practice and to lead by example.

Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Director of the Tobacco Free Initiative at WHO said that the involvement of health professionals is the key to successfully curb the tobacco epidemic. She further went on to say that, "If dentists warned all their patients that smoking causes excess plaque, yellowing teeth and contributes to tooth decay, as well as

a five-fold increased risk of oral cancer, the impact on smoking would be dramatic". Smoking prevalence among health professionals in many countries is the same or higher than the average of the population.

The FDI actively participated in the consultation process that led to the new code of practice. More information will be available soon.

For full press release please see <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2004/pr9/en/>

### *Evidence based implementation strategies in international health*

The Center for Global Development, an independent think tank based in Washington DC, has just published the results of a working group investigating evidence based successful implementation strategies in international health. Among 60 proposals 20 were selected and the use of fluoride is among the success stories. The whole document and more information can be found at <http://www.cgdev.org/docs/Success%20Summaries.pdf>.

### *Use of tobacco products in tooth-cleaning*

Up to 68% of adolescents in India use dental products containing tobacco according to a study in British Medical Journal (BMJ 2004; 328:323-324). Samples of 13-15-year-old students from 14 Indian states were surveyed to discover the extent of the use of tobacco products in tooth-cleaning products. The results varied from 6 % in Goa to 68% in Bihar.

The findings showed that tobacco toothpaste and toothpowder were common in all states. Other tooth-cleaning products containing tobacco included mishri (roasted and powdered tobacco), gudakhu (paste of tobacco and molasses) and tobacco water used for gargling.

The authors of the study believe that many companies are taking advantage of a widespread misconception in India that tobacco is good for the teeth by packaging and positioning their products as dental care products.

In 1992 a law was passed that barred manufacturers from using tobacco as an ingredient in any toothpaste or toothpowder but the study shows that the law has not been implemented adequately.

### *Reduction in tooth decay in Iraq*

A paper published in the International Dental Journal (2004; 54: 21-25) concludes that the low availability of sugars in Iraq caused a marked reduction in tooth decay over a five-year period.

The study was based on a survey of a random sample of school children aged 6 to 15 years in urban and rural settings. It took place before United Nations Sanctions in 1989 and again during the sanctions in 1995. Sugar consumption dropped from 50 to 12 kg/person during this period. The decrease in tooth decay was the equivalent of keeping one additional tooth healthy for 6 – 7 year old rural children and a remarkable, eight teeth for urban 14 – 15 year olds.

Since population studies about the link between sugar consumption and tooth decay are rare and often ethically questionable, the exceptional circumstances of the UN sanctions in Iraq, however, once again proved the detrimental effect of high sugar intake.

### *4th Triennial Meeting of the Commonwealth Dental Association*

The meeting took place in Nairobi 13 - 14 December 2003 and was held in collaboration with the Kenya Dental Association and the FDI's Continuing Professional Education Programme. Dr L K Gandhi, India was installed as CDA President for 2003 – 2006; Dr Gandhi is also the chairman of the 2004 New Delhi Local Organising Committee.



**NEW DELHI 2004**

### **NEW DEHLI CONGRESS**

#### *Preliminary programmes*

**If you have not yet received them they are on their way to all associations directly from India.**



#### *Registration*

The on-line registration is now up and running at [www.fdiworldental.org](http://www.fdiworldental.org).

You can, however, as always also register by faxing your registration form to +33 4 50 40 55 55.

If you have any questions regarding registration email them to [congress@fdiworldental.org](mailto:congress@fdiworldental.org)

The cut-off date for the reduced registration fee is 1 May. To take advantage of the lower fee - €350 – please remember to register before this date.

#### *Social programme*

The Social Programme is varied and offers delights for all tastes. To mention only a few:

**Theme night** – a spectacular evening showcasing India's rich tradition, diverse cultural heritage and regional folklore with a blend of today's India

**Dances of India** – a rich and unique mix of classical, folk and tribal dances

In the Accompanying Persons Programme you can find tours of New Delhi and to

Agra and the Taj Mahal; and in the mornings you can learn the secrets of yoga.

For full information on the Social and Accompanying Persons Programmes please see the Preliminary Programme and the website.

#### *Business Meetings*

The programme can be found on the website and the closer we get to the Congress the more extensive this information will be.

#### **THANKS**

Donations to the FDI Fund have been received from:

- The Norwegian Dental Association
- Professor François Duret
- The Academy of Dentistry International.



FDI Development Manager, Dr Habib Benzian and the President of Academy of Dentistry International Dr Donald T Brown (on the right)

The FDI and the World Dental Development Committee thank the donors for their generous gifts.

Our thanks also go to the Institute of Odontology at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, and its Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr Stein Björkman who have sent 40 kilos of books for undergraduate studies to the Dental School in Pristina, Kosova; 60 more kilos are on their way. The books were sent through the Swedish Battalion stationed outside Pristina.